

4 car theft
suspects killed in
Taguig shootout

Bangko
Sentral cuts
policy rates

3,200 miners trapped
2 km below gold mine
in South Africa

Leaders of 2 Koreas want
permanent peace treaty
to replace 1953 armistice

'Desperate' says
sorry; Fil-Ams say
it's not enough

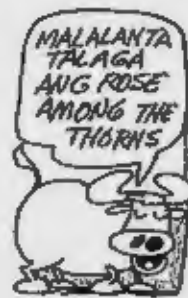
By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—ABC STUDIOS AND THE producers of "Desperate Housewives" on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) apologized for remarks made maligning Filipino health professionals in the show's Sept. 30 episode. But for many Filipino-Americans, the apology was not enough.

A broad alliance of Filipino-American groups said it wanted the TV network to take concrete steps to correct its mistake.

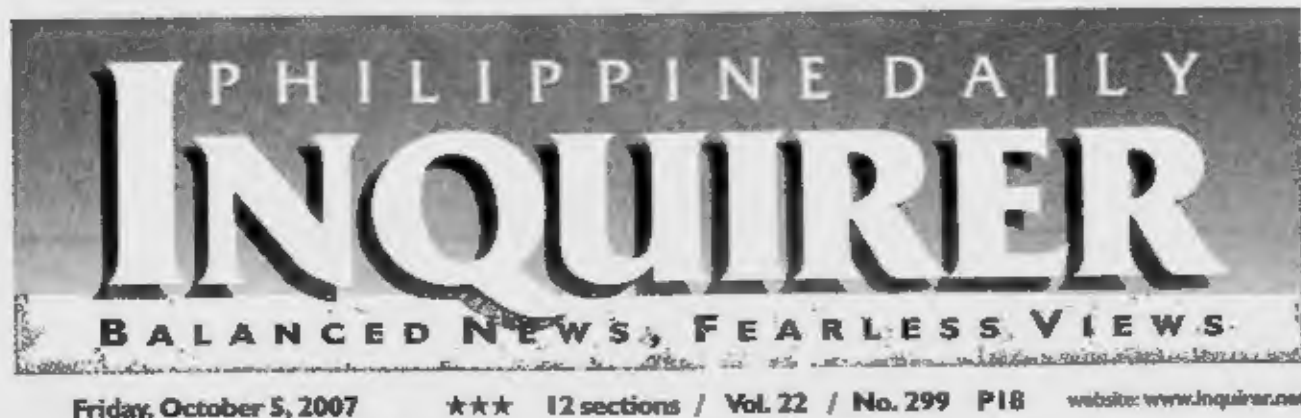
'DESPERATE' / A6

Outnumbered, women
feel wary but men like it



WASHINGTON—WOMEN feel threatened when outnumbered by the opposite sex, such as in math, science and engineering classrooms, while men enjoy being in a roomful of women, a

OUTNUMBERED / A6



Friday, October 5, 2007

★★★

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No. 299

P18

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Burma junta ignores UN; activists arrested nightly

RANGOON—BRUSHING ASIDE the United Nations' call for restraint in dealing with prodemocracy protests, the military rulers of Burma (Myanmar) on Thursday tightened their iron grip on power as security forces rounded up scores of activists throughout Rangoon (Yangon).

Residents said dozens of people were arrested overnight as security forces raided homes near Rangoon's Shwedagon Pagoda, Burma's holiest Buddhist shrine and the key rallying point for the mass protests.

Soldiers enforced an overnight curfew and swept into homes to make targeted arrests from a blacklist of activists following the largest demon-

strations against the junta in almost 20 years.

"They have a curfew in place and every night they arrest people," said Shari Villarosa, the US head of mission in the military-ruled country.

On the streets, "a semblance of normalcy has returned, but those of us who live here see the mood has changed. There has always been a lot of discontent, but now it's mixed with anger and fear," Villarosa said.

"That's been simmering for years, and now it's been heightened by anger at what has been done against the demonstrators, the atrocities that have been committed against the monks."

BURMA / A8

Silent monks need
tips from RP 'noisy'
activist bishops

By Philip C. Tuleza

HONG KONG—THANK GOD FOR our "noisy" Catholic bishops.

One reason people power succeeded twice in the Philippines but is apparently failing again in Burma is the Catholic hierarchy's "activism" when it comes to promoting democracy, Fr. Robert Reyes said yesterday.

"The big difference is that you had an activist hierarchy in 1986."

SILENT MONKS / A8



WHERE HAVE ALL THE MONKS GONE? Only novices with their begging bowls are seen in the streets of Rangoon after the military junta went all-out to crack down on protesters, particularly targeting the country's highest moral authority, the Buddhist monks, who led a series of massive protest actions.

AP

Senate summons Mike A

Cayetano
sets Oct. 25;
Jamby, Ping
want it soon

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. ALAN PETER CAYETANO, chair of the blue ribbon committee, yesterday announced that the inquiry into the \$329-million broadband network deal would resume on Oct. 25 with President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband invited as the main witness.

Jose Miguel Arroyo has been accused of pointedly telling Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, owner of the company that submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the project, to "back off" of the deal.

Cayetano made the announcement just hours after Sen. Jamby Madrigal threatened to have him and Senate President Manuel Villar investigated by the ethics committee for allegedly putting on the brakes on the ZTE deal probe due to pressure from Malacañang and a powerful businessman.

Public hearings on the scandal were to resume yesterday but the Senate went on recess after Ms Arroyo cancelled the contract earlier this week.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson threatened to hold a hearing on the deal with other members of the blue ribbon committee who would not be travelling abroad during the recess.

Cayetano, with five other senators, including his sister Sen. Pia Cayetano,

SENATE / A15



RISING DRAGON: RP's Port King, Ricky Razon, tours President Arroyo around the Yantai Rising Dragon International Container Terminals Ltd. during her Oct. 2-4 visit to China. Ms Arroyo, aside from meeting with President Hu Jintao, had only one other piece of business to attend to. It was to inaugurate Razon's first joint venture with the Chinese at the Yantai port in Shandong province, one of the country's wealthiest.

HELLO, 'GARCI,' JONAS
GMA issues order
to protect AFP secrets

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Leila B. Salaverria

MALACAÑANG IS TAKING THE INITIATIVE to produce legislation that would ensure that military secrets remained under wraps.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 25 issued Administrative Order No. 197 that, among other things, directs the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to draft a bill aimed at putting "safeguards" in place against the "disclosure of military secrets" and "undue interference in military operations inimical to national security."

Per the order, the DND and AFP are to draft the measure with the help of

the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office and Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress.

AO 197 is significant in light of two cases—the Senate's resumption of an inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, particularly the military's involvement in it, and Edita Burgos' plea to the Court of Appeals to compel the AFP to release the Provost Marshal General's report that might help in the search for her missing activist-son, Jonas Burgos.

Yesterday, despite the Court of Appeals' repeated order that the report be produced, the military invoked its lack of clearance to do so.

On the other hand, AO 197 also directs the defense and military estab-

GMA ISSUES / A9

ONE YEAR AFTER
US rights group finds
not one case solved

By Kate Pedrosa
Inquirer Research

A YEAR AFTER STARTING AN INQUIRY into extrajudicial killings and disappearances in the Philippines, the US-based group Human Rights Watch (HRW) has returned to find that not one of the cases it investigated had been resolved.

"The problem is, of all the cases we investigated when we were here [in September] last year—17 extrajudicial killings and two disappearances—there has not been a single

conviction," HRW member Bede Sheppard told INQUIRER editors yesterday.

Sheppard is the author of the recently released HRW report, "Scared Silent: Impunity for Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines."

The 84-page report details how members of left-wing political parties and nongovernment organizations, political journalists, outspoken clergy, antimining activists and agricultural reform advocates had been gunned down or abducted, and how these

US RIGHTS / A10

When governance fails: Murder in the island

By Jose Ma. Lorenzo
Vice Chair, WWF Philippines

TOWN COUNCILOR ARMIN MARIN clearly understood how dependent Sibuyanans were on the exceptional ecology that characterized their island home.

For him, people came first. He understood that without people's sup-

port, conservation would be a losing battle. He was a realist.

A civil engineer by training, Armin spent most of his adult life in the service of his island. His first brush with public service was as kagawad of his own barangay, Espana.

Then, from 1997 to 2002, he worked with WWF as a community organizer and farm supervisor, oversee-

ing livelihood projects for poor communities in Espana and other barangays in San Fernando's northern

After his exposure to WWF, Armin continued his service to his island, working with Fundacion Santiago on a project with the Department of Agrarian Reform, as a project supervisor for institutional development and cooperative

WHEN GOVERNANCE / A16

Antimining activist shot dead by guard

By Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon
and TJ Burgonio

THERE'S BLOOD ON THE SANDS OF SIBUYAN ISLAND. It is Armin Marin's blood.

The 44-year-old environmental activist was shot dead on Wednesday morning while leading a protest by some



MARIN

ANTIMINING / A16

Text us your feedback: inquirer.news.name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Cagayan, the Babuyan Islands and the Batanes Group of islands will experience rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be rough to very rough. Visayas and the rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over the Western sections which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Bulacan	Cloudy with Rains
Bagui	Cloudy with Rains	Rizal	Cloudy with Rains
Tarlac	Gusty Winds	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Lasag	Cloudy with Rains	Yosabon	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Que. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tegaybay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Lagana	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Delapan	Cloudy with Rains	Burab	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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Talk of JDV ouster persists

Mike A, Kampi seen as threats

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordaora

WHAT IS REALLY FUELING the effort to oust Speaker Jose de Venecia?

If a senior congressman identified with the administration is to be believed, it is primarily being driven by deeply personal issues.

Requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject, the congressman said De Venecia had separate issues with Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte and Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis.

The two are key figures in the Kabalikang Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) faction that pledged loyalty to the party leader, President Macapagal-Arroyo, not to De Venecia.

De Venecia believes some members of this faction are behind the effort to unseat him, an allegation Villafuerte vehemently denied yesterday.

"There is absolutely no plot against him," Villafuerte told the INQUIRER.

Sought for comment, De Venecia, however, said: "This move to oust me is not issue-driven but something personal. They are camouflaging their motives by forming a so-called reform bloc."

Mike Arroyo's role

For his part, Solis, a member of the reform bloc in the majority coalition, said the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, may play a major role if De Venecia is booted from the speakership.

At a news forum yesterday, Solis said Arroyo was "the godfather" of Kampi and would have a say on how the party's more than 50 members in the House should vote in any move to oust De Venecia.

"The First Gentleman is the godfather of Kampi. Whatever he says will surely have weight on the members," Solis said.

According to the congressman, Villafuerte's problems started when Kampi chair Ronaldo Puno, also the interior secretary, supported De Venecia's bid for an unprecedented fifth term as Speaker in the current Congress.

Villafuerte, the Kampi president, vaulted to the side of Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, another key Arroyo-aide who had helped deliver

the votes of his province to the President in 2004, the source said.

The Puno-Villafuerte conflict purportedly had its roots in Puno's refusal to appoint Villafuerte's candidate for police director of Camarines Sur at the height of the "jueteng" scandal more than a year ago.

Villafuerte admitted yesterday he was at loggerheads with Puno, but said the conflict began during deliberations to pick coalition candidates for last May's local elections.

The majority coalition, composed of De Venecia's Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, Kampi and other parties, had formed an arbitration committee to avoid the fielding of candidates for the same positions by the coalition members.

Nothing personal

"I was a member of the committee, but Puno, on his own initiative, issued nominations for Kampi, which was not in accord with the agreement," Villafuerte said.

"But there is absolutely nothing personal between me and De Venecia," he added.

WHAT'S INSIDE

RENEGOTIATE
RP-Japan pact, senators urged gov't

/A4

AUTOMATIC
debt service clipping House power over budget, says solon

/A4

NO NEW
upsurge, but DOH raises dengue alert

/A7

Victims seek travel ban on PIPC exec

INVESTORS OF THE PERFORMANCE Investment Products Corp. are seeking a hold-departure order against PIPC general manager Cristina Gonzales-Tuason because of information they received that she was planning to fly to the United States.

The lawyer of the investors, who brought charges of estafa against the officers of the foreign exchange trading firm whose Singaporean owner disappeared with its funds last July, yesterday said his clients have learned that Tuason was arranging for a US visa.

"We will also seek hold-departure orders against the other respondents, but our immediate concern is Ms Tuason," said lawyer Jose Felix Rosero.

Although Tuason is already on the immigration watchlist, a hold departure order is stronger, he said.

Reporters tried to speak with Tuason's lawyer at the preliminary hearing of the syndicated estafa case at the justice department yesterday, but he declined to be interviewed.

Aside from Tuason, the other respondents in the syndicated estafa case are Michael H.K. Liew, the Singaporean owner of PIPC and chair and president of PIPC Corp; his business partner Chua Pwey Chan; Ma. Cristina Jurado and Manuel Gonzales, PIPC Corp. corporate secretaries.

PIPC is the foreign ex-



TUASON

change trading firm while PIPC Corp. is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a financial research and information technology firm.

Also named in the complaint were Ernesto Sy, Gabriel Dee, Mario Lorenzo, Jonas-Karl Perez and Peter Donnelly Barot.

Former beauty queen Nini Licaros, one of the investors, yesterday estimated that the accused officers were able to get from \$250 to \$350 million from them.

Licaros said she and other investors wanted to speak up to prevent other people from falling prey to the scam.

Mons Romulo-Tantoco, a daughter of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, was among the complainants who showed up at the justice department offices yesterday.

"The public doesn't know there are these kinds of investment scams," Licaros said. *Leila B. Salaverria*

GMA starts India state visit

By Michael Lim Ubac

MUMBAI (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's state visit to India started on a high note yesterday with the firming up of new investments from Indian businessmen in the areas of banking, pharmaceuticals and public health worth more than \$155 million.

The biggest single investment is a plan by Indian steel magnate Lakshmi N. Mittal to construct a new steel manufacturing plant in the Philippines worth a whopping \$1.6 billion.

Mittal is the president and chief operating officer of Arcelor Mittal, the huge combine of the world's No. 1 and No. 2 steel companies, Arcelor and Mittal Steel.

Vinod Mittal, managing director of the Mittal Group's Ispat Industries, called on the President yesterday at the Taj Mahal

Palace Hotel where Ms Arroyo is billeted.

Ispat Industries, which owns Global Steelworks Phils., acquired in 2004 for \$225 million the Philippines' largest steel mill in Iligan, formerly operated by the National Steel Corp.

Ispat Industries' Iligan steel mill operation currently has an output of three million metric tons per year, supplying the requirements for cold rolled coils and flat steel products in the Philippines and other countries.

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), India's largest business group, told the President and her delegation composed of Cabinet officials and members of Congress that the Philippines was now the "fastest emerging market in Asia."

The Philippines and India, the world's second most populous country with 1.1 bil-

lion people, are the two "rapidly expanding markets in the region and the world," said Banmali Agrawala, CII deputy chairman.

Agrawala said India was interested in the pharmaceutical and mining business, alternative energy and business process outsourcing, among other sectors of the Philippine economy.

He said the greatest challenge for both countries was to see to it that economic growth would become the main vehicle to alleviate poverty. He said both were on this path.

In response, Ms Arroyo said she was "impressed" with India's growth which "fueled a knowledge economy."

"We hope to receive more investments from India. We are bullish on the 21st century India and on your ability to help drive positive change in the world. And we want to do business with you," she said.

Cheap medicine bill close to being OKd

By Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES yesterday drew closer to finally passing a bill aimed at breaking the giant multinational drug companies' control over drug prices and lowering the cost of medicine in the country.

The House committee on trade approved an omnibus measure consolidating all 23 cheaper medicine bills filed in the three-month-old 14th Congress.

"It's done," Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez, committee chair, told the INQUIRER minutes after the panel approved the draft prepared by its technical working group.

"I hope it will bring down the price of medicine," Alvarez said.

The approval came nine days before the lower house is to begin its three-week break on Oct. 13. The congressmen were apparently trying to beat the Oct. 12 deadline imposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia, especially after a similar bill never saw the light of day in the 13th Congress.

The new version, which will be presented for plenary deliberations next week, involves a multifaceted approach to drastically lower medicine prices in the country. Drug costs in the Philippines are the second highest in Asia.

The lead measure involved an amendment to the Intellectual Property Code to allow the parallel importation of patented drugs. This would mean that both government and the private sector would be able to import drugs that are being sold at much lower prices by the same multinationals abroad.

"We are relaxing government restrictions to open the door to cheaper medicines," Alvarez said.

Another approach is the creation of an interim drug price regulatory body that would formulate an operational plan for drug price regulation. It will be given one year to complete the plan, which will have to be approved by Congress.

The Senate, for its part, passed on second reading the proposed "Quality Affordable Medicines Act of 2007" principally authored by Sen. Manuel Roxas II during a flurry of plenary sessions before taking an early break on Oct. 3.

As in the bill it passed in the 13th Congress, the new measure aims to bring down the price of medicine by amending the Intellectual Property Code and allowing the parallel importation of cheaper drugs from abroad. It also allows generic drug manufacturers to develop medicines before their patents expire.

NY Pinoys asked to invest in RP

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO HAS urged Filipinos in New York to help the poor, invest in the Philippines and visit their home country.

De Castro made the call in a speech before the Filipino community in New York City during his official visit to the United States, according to a press statement issued by his office.

He asked the Filipinos to "keep the money flowing" by taking advantage of the investment opportunities in the country.

"Those of you who have the funds, or have control over funds, may wish to consider placing your money in our country," he said.

De Castro also called on the community to make even small contributions to help homeless Filipinos, particularly those relocated from the North and Southrail projects. He said the different Filipino organizations in New York can make big contributions to the incremental requirements of community upgrading and capacity building for people who are just starting life anew.

He also encouraged them to spend some time in the Philippines even as tourists, and see for themselves how far the country has developed, and what more can be done.

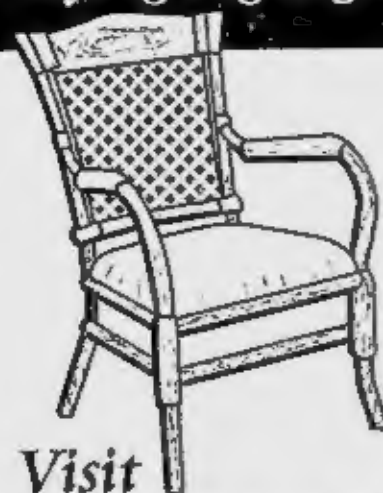
"I am not asking you to leave the United States and return to the Philippines. As overseas Filipinos, you have a role to play outside our country," he added.

The Vice President added that beyond the controversies of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping incident, the ZTE broadband deal and the guilty verdict for ousted President Joseph Estrada, there are "other stories" that are not getting enough attention, such as the Philippines' recent economic growth.

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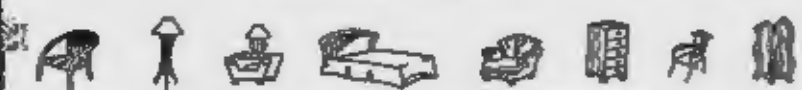
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'Ineng' intensifies, heads for exit

THE WEATHER BUREAU HAS raised a storm signal in extreme northern Luzon after Typhoon "Ineng" gained more strength and speed as it swirled over the Philippine Sea toward Taiwan.

The bureau raised storm Signal No. 1 over Cagayan, Babuyan islands and the Batanes group of islands, and alerted the residents there of big waves, and winds from 30 to 60 kph.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services

Administration said the typhoon would continue to enhance the southwest monsoon to bring rain over the western sections of Luzon, including Metro Manila, and Visayas.

"Those living in coastal and low lying areas and near mountain slopes are advised to take all the necessary precautions against possible big waves, flashfloods and landslides," it said in its bulletin.

The ninth cyclone to hit the country with winds of 160 kph and gusti-

ness of 195 kph was moving northwest at 15 kph over the Philippine Sea toward Taiwan, according to the bureau.

It was forecast to be 290 km north of Basco, Batanes this afternoon, and 190 km southeast of Taipei tomorrow afternoon.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, it was hovering over the Philippine Sea 540 km of east northeast of Aparri, Cagayan, or 520 km east southeast of Basco, Batanes. **TJ Burgonio**

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Renegotiate RP-Japan pact, gov't urged

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT IS HEADED FOR a "major diplomatic embarrassment" with the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) and should renegotiate the treaty, said Sen. Pia Cayetano.

"An outright rejection by the Senate would be like a slap on the face of Malacañang and would result in a major diplomatic embarrassment not only in the eyes of the Japanese government but also the international community," said Cayetano at the end of the fourth hearing on the Jpepa ratification yesterday.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee who chairs the hearings, observed that groups opposed to the Jpepa once more presented a better argument than the government on the "theoretical" benefits of the treaty.

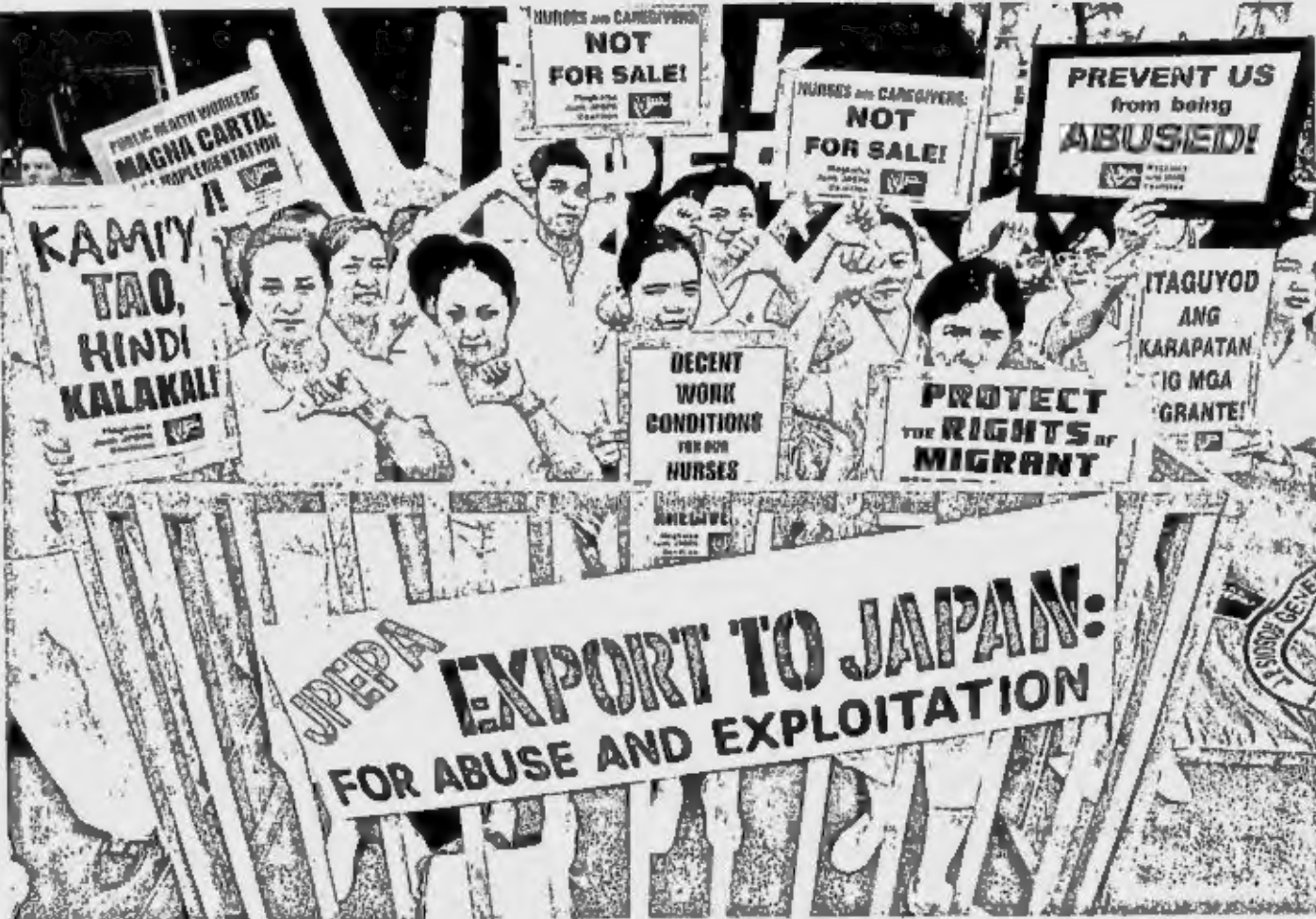
Dismayed

She said she and other senators were "dismayed" that even the people who were supposed to benefit the most from the treaty, namely nurses, caregivers and migrant workers, are against it.

"I will say at the very least that the committee members are flabbergasted, as noted even by the administration public officials," she said.

Santiago said the treaty can be renegotiated rather than rejected by the Senate.

"That is a definite option, but in effect it would mean a rejection of the Executive Branch. For all you know maybe Japan would refuse to renegotiate it on that basis," she said.



NURSING students show their opposition to Jpepa in a rally outside the Senate.

ate it on that basis," she said.

"If I'm not allowed to sit on it, that is to say, just send it to the archives, then I will be compelled to issue a report recommending renegotiation," she said.

The senators said the government did not get a good deal for Filipino

nurses and caregivers under the treaty.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II pointed out that while the government claimed that Jpepa would open the Japanese market for the hiring of Filipino nurses, those opposed to the treaty cited a specific chapter in the agreement that said

Filipino nurses would only be on "on the job training" (OJT) status.

The government also claimed that Filipino nurses and caregivers will be granted "national treatment" or the same rights and privileges as Japanese nurses, "however no one could answer

whether Filipino nurses will receive exactly the same monetary and other benefits or protection as Japanese nurses," Roxas said.

"In trade negotiations, no deal is always better than a bad deal," he said, adding that after four hearings the government has not shown the treaty's benefit to the country in "specific, concrete terms and the concessions made by the government to Japan."

Cayetano rued that the government did not get favorable terms such as subsidy for nursing schools in the Philippines in exchange for Filipino nurses who work in Japan.

She said Filipino nurses and caregivers will also be made to comply with higher standards, compared to the terms negotiated by other countries with similar treaties with Japan.

No details

"I don't understand why other countries can negotiate very good terms for their nurses when it is the Philippines that produces nurses who are considered among the best in the world," said Cayetano.

The last public hearing is set for next Monday, and will tackle constitutional issues. The past hearings dealt with the treaty's effect on trade, investments and the environment.

Santiago said the government never gave empirical data on the treaty's benefits and the concessions that the country gave up in return.

"They just keep on summarizing the Jpepa for the members and I've already read it. I don't need someone to summarize it for me," she said.

Pinay slain in Canada mansion Automatic debt service

POLICE HAVE REFUSED TO DIVULGE details in the death on Monday of a Filipino maid in a mansion in a Toronto, Canada, suburb, a newspaper has reported.

Investigators identified the victim as Jocelyn Dulnuan, 27, the Toronto Star said yesterday.

Details on how she died and the motive for the killing were scarce, the Star said, as investigators remained tightlipped about the incident.

"The persons that would know that are the killers and I'll hold that off until we interview them," homicide Insp. Norm English was quoted by the Star as saying.

He called the slaying an "isolated incident."

"The location was targeted for a specific reason that I'm not prepared to comment on today," English said.

A Star report yesterday said Dul-

nuan had feared for her life at the mansion and confided this to a friend the day before she was killed.

"There's a second door in the back of the house that leads to the basement where her room was. She told me the last time I saw her that there's a river behind the house, so someone could just pass onto the (property) there, around the gates," The Star quoted a woman identified only as Lyn, Dulnuan's friend, as saying.

Dulnuan flew to Canada in November 2006 with a work permit. She held several jobs before going to work for Jaya Chanchalani, a doctor, who owned the mansion. Dulnuan had been working for the family since June, the Star said.

Toronto police have contacted Dulnuan's mother in Hong Kong to inform her about the incident, the report said.

"The mother who lives in Hong Kong has spoken with our investigators. To our knowledge, [the mother] had never had any contact with the police," English was quoted by the Star as saying.

In Baguio City, Anthony Basil, Cordillera case officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in the city, said on Wednesday that OWWA officials had asked Philippine officials in Canada to look into the incident.

Basil said Dulnuan was from Barangay Namulditan in Hingyon, Ifugao. Provincial officials had yet to receive any information on the murder, he added.

The administrator of www.ig-orotblogger.blogspot.com posted some of the first reports about "our kailiyan's (community member's) death." With Vincent Cabresca, Inquirer Northern Luzon

clipping House power over budget, says solon

By Christian V. Esguerra

HOUSE MEMBERS DELIBERATING ON THE proposed P1,227-trillion national budget for 2008 are bent on exercising to the full Congress's power of the purse by reviewing the automatic provision for foreign debt payments.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the appropriations committee, said congressmen have reached the position that unless automatic debt payments are dropped from the annual budget allocations, the House's exercise of its power over the national purse would be limited.

"I think they are consumed by efforts to find out what we can do to reduce debt service," to such an extent that there have been no discussions about the House members' lucrative share of the pork barrel, Lagman said. "Nobody is asking about it. Nobody is lobbying," said Lagman, referring to the P40-million in Priority Development Assistance Fund, as the pork barrel allocation is known.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 4 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"NBN deal probe in limbo"—misstated the position held by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Pimentel is the Senate—not House—minority leader.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Rocas Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

in the budget program.

No pork talk

In the past, deliberations on the national budget were never without discussions of the pork barrel, widely believed to be a source of corruption for congressmen and senators.

In the proposed 2008 budget, Lagman said the House had discretion only over P286 billion, or 23 percent of the total amount. More than half of the overall amount is earmarked for debt payments, as required by law.

To set things in motion, Lagman filed House Bill No. 329, seeking to amend a key provision in the Administrative Code of 1987 which provides that "principal and interest on public debt, national government guarantees of obligations which are drawn upon are automatically appropriated."

"This provision hinders congressional efforts to more rationally and meaningfully allocate government resources for the benefit of our people," Lagman wrote in the bill's explanatory note.

"It perpetuates the anomaly of a Congress not being able to exercise to the full its power over the national purse," he said.

Debt audit

A separate Lagman resolution called for the creation of a "congressional commission to review and assess the debt policies, strategies and programs of the Philippines."

The body is also intended to "conduct public audit of all loans acquired, including assumed and contingent liabilities, validate the utilization of loan proceeds, and the payments made thereon."

In his sponsorship of the General Appropriations Bill last Wednesday, Lagman drew attention to the questionable loans that covered the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant and the purchase of medical waste incinerators for 26 government hospitals.

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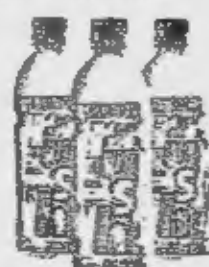
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'Desperate' apologizes; Fil-Ams say it's not enough

From page A1
such as holding cultural sensitivity and diversity awareness training for its management and staff.

Rico Foz, executive vice president of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (Nafcon), said the group was demanding that ABC Television Network

immediately edit out the controversial scene in which character Susan Mayer (Teri Hatcher), tells her doctor: "OK, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

The show is currently available for online viewing.

In Manila, a lawmaker filed a resolution calling on the House of Representatives to condemn the racial slur on Filipino doctors in the United States.

Rep. Bienvenido Abante, chair of the House committee on public information, said the popular TV series should be banned from the Philippines' free and cable TV, although this was not included in the resolution. "[The slur] affects not only Filipino doctors but all Filipinos as well," he told reporters.

The one-paragraph apology was "not proportionate to the damage [the show] has caused," Foz said.

Nafcon, which has also been leading the campaign for the rights of nurses in the controversial Sentosa case, plans to hold pickets in front of the net-



TERI HATCHER, TV actress, said the offending line.

work's headquarters in New York and programming offices in Burbank, California, to push for their demands.

The picket in New York is set for Friday at 6 p.m.

In a statement, ABC Studios and the show's producers said: "We offer our sincere apologies for any offense caused by the brief reference in the season premiere. There was no intent to disparage the integrity of any aspect of the medical community in the Philippines."

Describing themselves as "leaders in broadcast diversity," they said they were "committed to presenting sensitive and respectful images of all communities featured in our programs."

But Nafcon and another Filipino-American group pushing for immigrant rights want the network to prove this commitment.

"They should also take other steps, beyond issuing an apology, to make sure [the racial slur] does not happen again," said Chito Quijano, spokesperson for the Justice 4 Immigrants Filipino Coalition.

"An apology is not enough," said New York-based Filipino cardiologist Dr. Orlando Apiao, who migrated to the United States in 1963 after earning his medical degree at the University of the Philippines.

"[The producers] should acknowledge the role of [foreign-trained] Filipino doctors since the early 1960s," he said. "For three decades, we have been serving America."

The network has yet to respond to the protest letters sent by Philippine Ambassador Willy Gaa and Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo-Aragon to Anne Sweeney, cochair of Disney Media Networks, and to network president Mark Pedowitz.

ABC is owned by The Walt Disney Co. and is part of Dis-

ney-ABC Television Group.

Let it be a lesson

Zeny Cortez, the first Filipino president of the powerful California Nurses Association (CNA), said she appreciated that the show producers had acknowledged their mistake but would like to see efforts to address the show's "lack of (cultural) sensitivity."

"Let it be a lesson to them, that they should not be targeting Filipinos and other minority groups here," Cortez told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

"They should also be aware of the facts, such as how much certification and training nurses and other health professionals have to go through. You can't just fly over here to become a doctor or a nurse."

Cortez said she was pleased to hear that other minority groups in the United States had come forward to support the Filipino health professionals.

"It's good that we are supporting each other. We need to protect each other," she said. "This can happen to any [minority] group."

The 75,000-strong CNA is widely recognized as a powerful lobby group in the region. A high-profile campaign it launched in late 2006 to defeat some of California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's propositions succeeded.

Flexing political muscle

Both Foz and Quijano agreed that the Filipinos' unified voice in protesting the perceived racial slur proved that, when working together, overseas Filipinos could emerge as a potent political force.

"If we stick together and act as a whole group, we have [political] power," Quijano said. "We can use this power to effect change for the betterment of all Filipinos."

Just very recently, overseas Filipinos flexed political muscle when they launched a successful campaign on blog sites to pressure a columnist who had maligned OFWs to issue a public apology and resign.

The columnist, Malu Fernandez, sparked an outrage among overseas Filipinos when she mocked OFWs in an article she wrote for People Asia.

"Desperate Housewives" should be banned from Philippine TV, Abante said. The slur was "very offensive, outrageous and derogatory, and hence must be condemned in the strongest terms by the House of Representatives as the lawmaking body of our government," he said in his resolution.

Iloilo Rep. Ferginel Biron, a physician and author of the Cheap Medicines Bill, said Filipino doctors in the United States were as good as and might even be better than American doctors.

Filipino doctors, like other physicians there, have to pass a qualifying examination to be able to undertake residency training in US hospitals and specialty board examinations to be able to practice, he said.

"When a Filipino doctor passes all these examinations, he is as good as or may even be better than American doctors," Biron said. With reports from Ruben V. Nepales in Los Angeles and Norman Bordonador in Manila



THIS UNDATED photo, provided by ABC, shows actors, from left, Eva Longoria, John Slattery and Nathan Fillion in an episode of ABC's "Desperate Housewives."

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Outnumbered, women feel ...

From page A1
study published earlier this week showed.

"Walking into a situation in which you sense the possibility of being ostracized or isolated

can be quite threatening," said the study, which looked at the effect of so-called situational cues, such as being outnumbered, on women's performance in math, science and

engineering courses.

The gender ratio in those classes is "approximately three men to every one woman," said the study, led by Mary Murphy, a psychologist at Stanford University in California.

Published in the October issue of Psychological Science, the study monitored the reactions of a group of advanced students in traditionally male-dominated fields while they watched two videos depicting a conference.

In one video, men outnumbered women. In the other video, however, the sexes were equally represented.

Heart rates up

The heart rates of female students accelerated and their perspiration increased when they watched the video in which their gender was outnumbered.

The female students also reported "a lower sense of belonging and less desire to participate in the conference," the study showed.

They also paid more attention to their surroundings when they watched the video in which women were in minority.

"This kind of attention allocation (to surroundings) would interfere with performance and might help explain the performance gap between men and women in these fields," the study said.

On the other hand, the male students showed no significant physiological or attention changes when watching either film.

In fact, the male students liked being in a setting dominated by women.

'Innate gender differences'

"Women probably feel they really could belong in the environment where there are more women, while men might simply be attracted by the unusual number of women in these settings," Murphy said.

Former Harvard University president Lawrence Summers drew fire two years ago for suggesting "innate" gender differences as a reason for the preponderance of men in leadership roles in math and science.

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Hospitals	45
Other Institutions	219
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CITY/MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF SAMPLING POINTS
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Quezon City	89
Mandaluyong	34
San Juan	80
Taguig	22
Pateros	101
Makati	43
Manila	104
Morona	120
Pasig	748
TOTAL	175

MUNICIPALITY	NUMBER OF SAMPLING POINTS
Iloilo	12
Angono	49
Antipolo	2
Baras	47
Canta	2
Jala-Jala	38
Montalban	35
San Mateo	33
Taytay	1
BINANGORAN	218
TOTAL	218

No new upsurge, but DOH raises dengue alert

WHILE THERE IS NO UPSURGE in new cases of dengue, the public should not be complacent, particularly because of the onset of the rains, health officials said.

The Department of Health clarified yesterday that the reported 4,000 new cases of dengue in September do not represent a new upsurge in the dreaded disease.

The data came from recently released figures from the DOH showing that year-to-date dengue cases as of the period Sept.

9 to 15, or the cumulative dengue cases since January, totaled 24,689, against 19,834 in the Sept. 2 to 8 period.

According to Dr. Lyndon Lee Suy, the DOH's dengue program coordinator, the data are cumulative and include the figures since January that regional offices failed to report. Thus, the 4,000 figure did not represent new cases but were cases that were not previously reported.

Suy said the trend in dengue occurrence is actually going down. DOH data show

that while new dengue cases for the period Aug. 19 to 25 totaled 1,233 cases, the figure went down to 1,153 cases and then to 891 cases in the succeeding weeks.

The most recent DOH data for the week of Sept. 9 to 15 showed that new reported dengue cases were down to 527, he said.

On top of this, Suy said the Philippines seems to be faring better in preventing the spread of dengue compared to other countries in the region.

He said that while there has been 3.2

percent increase in dengue cases of dengue in the Philippines in September compared to year-ago figures, neighboring countries have been averaging a 100 percent to 200 percent increase.

Despite the decline, Suy said the public must not be complacent. He said the DOH was not taking the data in stride as it steps up its campaign to educate the public in the prevention of dengue.

"While the number of cases is going down, it does not mean that we should

not be alert anymore. In fact, we should be on guard. We should not be complacent," said Suy.

While dengue cases appear all year round, there is particular reason to be concerned about dengue these days because of the rains.

"During the rainy season, there is an increased number of breeding sites for mosquitoes, so there's a bigger chance for the transmission of the disease," said Suy.

Beverly T. Natividad

Ex-DOH execs cleared but must pay overprice

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THREE FORMER DEPARTMENT OF Health officials, including an undersecretary, were able to beat graft charges filed against them in the Sandiganbayan but were still made to reimburse the DOH more than P800,000 representing the overprice in the cost of medical kits.

Cleared but still held liable for the P825,425 overprice in the purchase of 2,500 medical kits in November 1995 were then Health Undersecretary Teresita de la Cruz, procurement and logistics service director Patria Manuel and chief of materials management division Bernardo Bersolas.

Also cleared but liable was businesswoman Ma. Alicia Imbong Cabahug, owner of MAIC Trading Inc. which sold the medical kits to the DOH.

The three officials were saved from a graft conviction by a clause in the procurement contract, the court said.

The clause "negates or, at the very least, casts serious doubt on the presence of the element of manifest partiality... for it protects the interest of the government and thus puts to serious doubt the existence of bias and fraud," the court ruled.

The clause stated: "It is a precondition to the acceptance of this [purchase order] by the supplier that in the event there is a finding of overpricing in this transaction the said supplier may be held liable for payment of the excess to the DOH."

"While it is true that the acts of all the accused taken together resulted in the perfection and consummation of the subject purchase, there is no clear showing that they acted with manifest partiality or bad faith," the court ruled.

The 36-page decision was penned by Associate Justice Rodolfo Ponferrada.

On the other hand, the court said, the purchase by the officials of medical kits without a public bidding caused undue injury to the government and gave unwarranted benefit to Cabahug in the amount of P825,425.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Friday, October 5, 2007

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Bar 1:15-22

Gospel:

Luke 10:13-16

Jesus said, "Alas for you Chorazin! Alas for you Bethsaida! So many miracles have been worked in you! If the same miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would already be sitting in ashes and wearing the sackcloth of repentance. Surely for Tyre and Sidon it will be better than for you on the Judgment Day. And what of you, city of Capernaum? Will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead."

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me; and he who rejects me, rejects the one who sent me."

Commentary

Baruch begins with the message of every prophet: Justice is with the Lord our God and we have not been just or obedient to the Word of God but have disregarded the voice of God. Instead each and all serve other gods/idols and our hearts are wicked and we do evil in the sight of the Lord. Does this refrain touch our hearts today? Are we any different than our ancestors?

Jesus, too, as a prophet, judges that it will go ill with whole cities where he preached and worked miracles because no one repented, converted or obeyed the voice of God in Jesus' own Word made flesh. Have we heard and obeyed or rejected the Word of the gospels and so rejected God?

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Burma junta ignores UN; activists arrested nightly

From page A1

The empty streets, where thousands of Buddhist monks normally collect alms at dawn, are evidence of the scale of the junta's ruthless crackdown, according to residents. Empty Rangoon monasteries have also left residents wondering if the monks had been arrested, injured or worse.

"We have to hide," one monk told AFP. "We joined the protests very peacefully to pray for the people. Now I don't know what has happened, but we have to hide. I hope things will be back to normal soon."

"During daylight hours, soldiers and police stay largely out of sight after storming through the city last week, killing at least 10 people and arresting more than 2,000 people to break up the mass rallies."

"We think there were considerably more than 10 killed," Villalosa said, disputing the official toll. She said she was "fairly certain thousands of people have been arrested."

Dissident groups put the death toll at up to 200 and say 6,000 people have been detained, including thousands of monks.

4 categories of detainees

Although most of Rangoon residents are too terrified to talk, the monks and civilians slowly being freed from a makeshift interrogation center in Burma's largest city are giving a glimpse of the mechanics of the junta's dreaded internal security apparatus.

A relative of three women released said detainees were being divided into four categories—passers-by, those who watched, those who clapped and those who joined in.

"They're looking for the people who led the demonstrations. The people clapping will only get a minimal punishment—maybe two to five years," said Win Min, who fled to Thailand during a crackdown on a student-led uprising in 1988.

Leaders could be looking at up

to 20 years behind bars, he said.

Reports of abuse suggest the junta chief, Gen. Than Shwe, is paying scant regard to the calls for restraint delivered by UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, who is on his way back to New York to brief his boss, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The UN chief on Wednesday said that Gambari had delivered "the strongest possible message" to Burma's military leaders about their bloody crackdown on democracy activists, but added that he couldn't call the special envoy's four-day trip "a success."

After Gambari briefs Ban on Thursday, the UN chief will discuss Burma with the Security Council on Friday to decide on the international community's next step.

Global protest

Activists who had harnessed technology to send photographs and video of the protests around the world have now found those weapons turned against them.

Security forces also recorded

the protests, apparently using those images to compile lists of activists whom they are now hunting down, according to residents.

Demonstrations broke out in mid-August over a fuel price hike. The protests ballooned when monks took the lead last month. But the military crushed the prodemocracy rallies a week ago with bullets, tear gas and clubs.

The crackdown has continued even as the international community has ratcheted up the pressure on the military, which has been in power for 45 years.

On Saturday, supporters of the prodemocracy movement are set to rally worldwide after Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Crisis Action and other groups called for a global day of protests.

Events have been scheduled for noon local time in 30 countries including Austria, Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, India, Ireland, New

Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Thailand and the United States.

"These events around the world are designed to show the people of Burma that we stand with them, and the generals that we are watching their every move," said a Crisis Action spokesperson.

EU sanctions

In Brussels, nations of the European Union agreed to expand sanctions against the military regime. Diplomats said extra sanctions would include an expanded visa ban for members of the military junta, a wider ban on investment and a ban on trade in metals, timber and gemstones.

But the new measures do not include a specific ban on European oil and gas companies from doing business in Burma, diplomats said.

The Southeast Asian nation has vast oil and gas deposits that are hungrily eyed by its neighbors—India, China and

Thailand—as well as by multinationals around the world.

Burma has been under military rule since 1962. The current junta came to power after snuffing out a 1988 prodemocracy movement against the previous military dictatorship, killing at least 3,000 people in process.

The generals called elections in 1990 but refused to give up power when Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's party won.

Too afraid

For now, people who took part in the recent protests say they're too afraid to return to the streets.

One 29-year-old resident in Rangoon said he had joined the protests but stopped after seeing security agents taking his picture. Now he wonders if there's any hope for change.

"If the United Nations can't do anything, we will have big difficulties overcoming our present situation," he said. Reports from AFP, Reuters and AP

Silent monks need tips from RP's 'noisy' activist bishops

From page A1

You had (the late Manila Archbishop Jaime) Cardinal Sin and several activist bishops and priests. In Burma, they don't have a history of activist monks," said Reyes, known as the "running priest" in Manila for jogging to promote his causes or protest something.

"You will see in Burma that the ordinary monks are quiet and they wait for the senior monk to take the lead," he said after he had his head shaved in the central business district here to protest the violent crackdown on prodemocracy protests in Burma.

Reyes, joined by members of Amnesty International and the Asian Human Rights Commission, had his shave around lunchtime at Chater Garden in solidarity with the Buddhist monks and nuns who are bearing the brunt of the military junta's crackdown.

In Manila, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has asked the Filipino faithful to pray for an end to the violence in Burma.

Nonviolent solution

The CBCP president, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, said he sent a letter to all



HONG KONG: Fr. Robert Reyes of Running Priest fame, has his head shaved in the central business district to show solidarity with Burmese monks who "have lost their lives. They are not coming back. I will lose my hair for only a few days," says Reyes.

DANTE PERALTA

bishops in the country to request them to offer prayers and Masses for the "peaceful and nonviolent solution to the situation in Burma."

"Having ourselves experienced what it is to be under martial rule and participated in the peaceful resolution of our democracy, we can understand as well as sympathize with the monks, people and bishops of (Burma)," Lagdameo said in a statement.

Burma's military junta, which has been in power for 45 years, has turned to arrests and the violent suppression of prodemocracy demonstrations that broke over issues like a drastic fuel price hike.

The peaceful antijunta demonstrations made international headlines when the monks led the street protests.

Monasteries raided

Last week, reports said the military managed to stop the demonstrations by raiding the monasteries, arresting the monks, rounding up protesters and beating them be-

fore loading them onto trucks.

Also recently, Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference secretary general, sent a letter of solidarity to the president of the Catholic bishop's conference of Burma, Most Rev. Paul Zinghtung Grawing, to assure him that member-episcopal conferences were praying for peace in Burma.

Prayer vigil

Christian churches and human rights activists in Hong Kong have scheduled a prayer vigil on Saturday to press for democracy in Burma.

"We will continue to give our support to the Burmese people and pressure the military junta to heed their call," said Milabel Cristobal Amar, director of Amnesty International in Hong Kong.

As some tourists and office workers out for lunch looked on, Reyes was having his head shaved. "I will lose my hair only for a few days. Our Buddhist brothers and sisters have lost their lives," he said.

"Today, we cannot stand quiet as though taken hostage by indifference and fear. I invite you, as I let go of my hair, to let go of whatever makes you feel separate, different from the Burmese people," he said.

He called on others to speak for the Burmese people.

While Filipino bishops' are known for their outspokenness, the Catholic Church in Burma has ordered its priests and other religious to stay away from the protests, according to Reyes.

Church is so quiet

Quoting a story from the Ucan Catholic news service, Reyes said a Burmese Catholic nun tried to organize her fellow religious but no one responded because they were "afraid to tell the truth."

According to the report, the nun said in a text message to her friends in Manila that she hoped Church leaders in the Philippines and other countries would lead the universal Church "in prayer and in action, since the Church in Myanmar is so afraid."

"Our Catholic Church is so quiet. Our people do nothing but pray individually, privately," the nun reportedly said.

The Catholic bishops' conference in Burma issued a statement on Sept. 26 saying that it had been praying for peace and urging the people to offer prayers and sacrifice for the peaceful resolution of the situation in the country.

Free to act

The Burmese bishops' conference said that while its priests and religious were not involved in party politics and in the recent protests, Catholics were "free to act as they deem fit."

Reyes said Filipinos were molded by an "active Christian ethic against corruption and oppression."

"People, I think, in the Philippines, being Christian, have that Christian ethic against corruption and oppression. That is an active ethic. There is a tendency in Buddhism to look at salvation from within," he said.

Passive ethic

Reyes said monastic communities in general exude a "very passive ethic" by their emphasis on "withdrawal from the world."

"(But) it's not enough to say 'Let us pray.' You (just) don't pray against injustice. You work against injustice. You work against oppression and violence," he said.

But now that the Burmese Buddhist monks and nuns have found their voice and actually initiated the prodemocracy protests, Reyes said the world should not forget them.

"The Burmese generals led by General Than Shwe are madly attached to power, which has not only defiled them but is leading them to murder those who stand for what they are not, the Buddhist monks," Reyes said.

The priest also noted that unlike Filipino soldiers, who played a crucial role in the people power revolts of 1986 and 2001, military officers in Burma were averse to defecting and joining protesters. With a report from Beverly T. Natividad in Manila

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MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Plant Equipment, Components, Auxiliaries, and Accessories of the Manila Thermal Power Plant and the Underlying Land located at Isla de Provisor, Paco, Manila

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being sold on an "as is where it" basis, and includes the land underlying the Asset.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office, with address at the 7th Floor, Banker Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 16, 2007 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 7B of RA 8136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. \$ 500.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 16, 2007 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which included the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from 6 October until 19 October 2007 at 5:00 p.m. (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity, and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence 4 October to 12 December 2007
Pre-bid Conference 24 October 2007
Bid Submission Deadline 19 December 2007, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times in this notice shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are covered in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Banker Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampico at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 392-8029, or e-mail address latampico@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein. For any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice, interested parties and/or bidders will be called subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) ANGELO T. REYES
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

* To give prospective bidders enough time to submit the required documents, PSALM has moved the submission deadline for the Letter of Interest to 15 October 2007 from 10 October 2007. The deadline for submission of the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and payment of the Participation Fee has also been moved to 18 October 2007 from 12 October 2007.

(PSI - October 3, 4 & 5, 2007)



LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Amount	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/Opening of Bids	
1 Lot Supply of Technical Supervision/Expense, Materials, Tools, Equipment and Labor for the Proposed Rehabilitation of Indoor Power Substation (Phase I) of LANDBANK Plaza, Makati, Manila	P18,227,000.00	Oct. 15, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 22, 2007 1:00 PM	P 2,200.00
224 Units Manual ATM Card Embosser	P15,680,000.00	Oct. 15, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 29, 2007 1:00 PM	P 7,900.00
150,000 Pcs. LANDBANK T-Shirt	P11,250,000.00	Oct. 15, 2007 9:00 AM	Oct. 29, 2007 1:00 PM	P 5,700.00
1 Lot Printing of LANDBANK 2008 Calendar • Wall 3,000 pcs. • Desk 5,000 pcs.	P7,965,000.00	Oct. 16, 2007 3:00 PM	Oct. 29, 2007 1:00 PM	P 4,000.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department starting October 5, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at Procurement Department Bidding Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1596 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Cuernos Sts., Makati, Manila.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-1111 or 7771-1111.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PSI - October 5, 2007)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

PH C 57 P.O.

US rights group finds not

From page A1

crimes have gone uninvestigated and unprosecuted.

It also documents the involvement of the Armed Forces in the killings.

A summary of the report said the government's failure to carry out credible investigations and prosecutions had contributed to "rampant impunity," and that witnesses and the victims' families were being "scared silent" for fear of becoming targets of reprisal.

Arroyo initiatives

At the meeting with the INQUIRER, Sophie Richardson, HRW advocacy director for Asia, noted efforts by the Arroyo administration to address the issue. But she said she was unsure whether these efforts would have any effect.

"It appears that the administration, in response to domestic and international pressure, has undertaken a series of initiatives, all of which, if they actually were fully implemented, would make an extraordinary difference," Richardson said.

"But I think it remains to be seen whether the designation of 99 special courts, the issuance of new writs, and having special summits are in fact going to make a difference," she said.

In March, the Supreme Court designated



FIELD WORK Defense Secretary Gilberto Cardozo in Davao City on Thursday on his way to EastMindCom chief Lt. Gen. Cardozo L.

99 regional trial courts as special tribunals for the "speedy and expeditious resolution of these criminal cases ... involving the



HEAVY BURDEN: Philippine Navy Special Operations Group commandos carry the casket of a fallen comrade onto a C-130 for airlift to Manila.

MARK TAN/CONTRIBUTOR

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Alberto Teodoro Jr. arrives at the Eastern Mindanao first official visit since assuming the defense post. With Josele Badilla/INQUIRER MINDANAO

most brazen violations of human rights." In July, it convened a national consultative summit on the extrajudicial killings and disappearances to "search for solutions." The summit was attended by about 250 experts representing various government agencies, including the military and police, members of Congress and the judiciary, as well as NGOs, the academe, media and foreign groups.

New writs' effectiveness

Richardson lauded the steps taken by the judiciary, but was again wary of their effectiveness.

"On one hand, we are encouraged that the judiciary is taking action to resolve this problem of either the military or police saying 'We have no information, we're not going to participate [in investigations],'" she said, adding:

"At the same time, we are concerned that these writs are being issued specifically to people who have in the past completely refused to comply with the writ of habeas corpus.

"It's not entirely clear to us that they're going to be any better at complying this time around."

Under the writ of amparo, the rules of which were recently issued by the high court, state agents cannot merely deny that a missing person is in their custody, and are actually compelled to look for him/her.

The newly drafted writ of habeas data, on the other hand, can be used to gain access to military and police files, or can be resorted to by any citizen against any government agency to find out what information has been compiled against him/her.

Richardson said that aside from monitoring the implementation of the two new writs, the HRW would look out for the release of the Melo Commission's final report to the public.

The commission, chaired by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, was formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in August 2006 to look into the killings and disappearances

September-November '06

Interviews and field investigations for "Scared Silent" were conducted between September and November 2006 in Metro Manila and the provinces of Albay, Bulacan, Compostela Valley, Davao, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Negros Oriental, North Cotabato, Nueva Ecija, Sorsogon and Tarlac.

The HRW spoke with witnesses and family members and close friends of victims of killings and disappearances that took place between October 2005 and November 2006. One case involved the killing of Pastor Jemias Tinambacan of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, who was provincial chair of Bayan Muna and executive director of the Mission for Indigenous and Self-Reliant People's Assistance.

It spoke as well as with more than 50 government officials, including from the police and the military, lawmakers, academics, lawyers, diplomats and representatives of NGOs and civil society groups.

"It is just completely inadequate for President Arroyo to keep going out in public and saying, 'Oh but we don't have a state policy of killing people,'" Richardson said.

"That's absurd. We have to investigate them and we have to prosecute them. If you can prosecute people for garden-variety murder in this country, you should be able to prosecute people for the murders of government critics," she said.

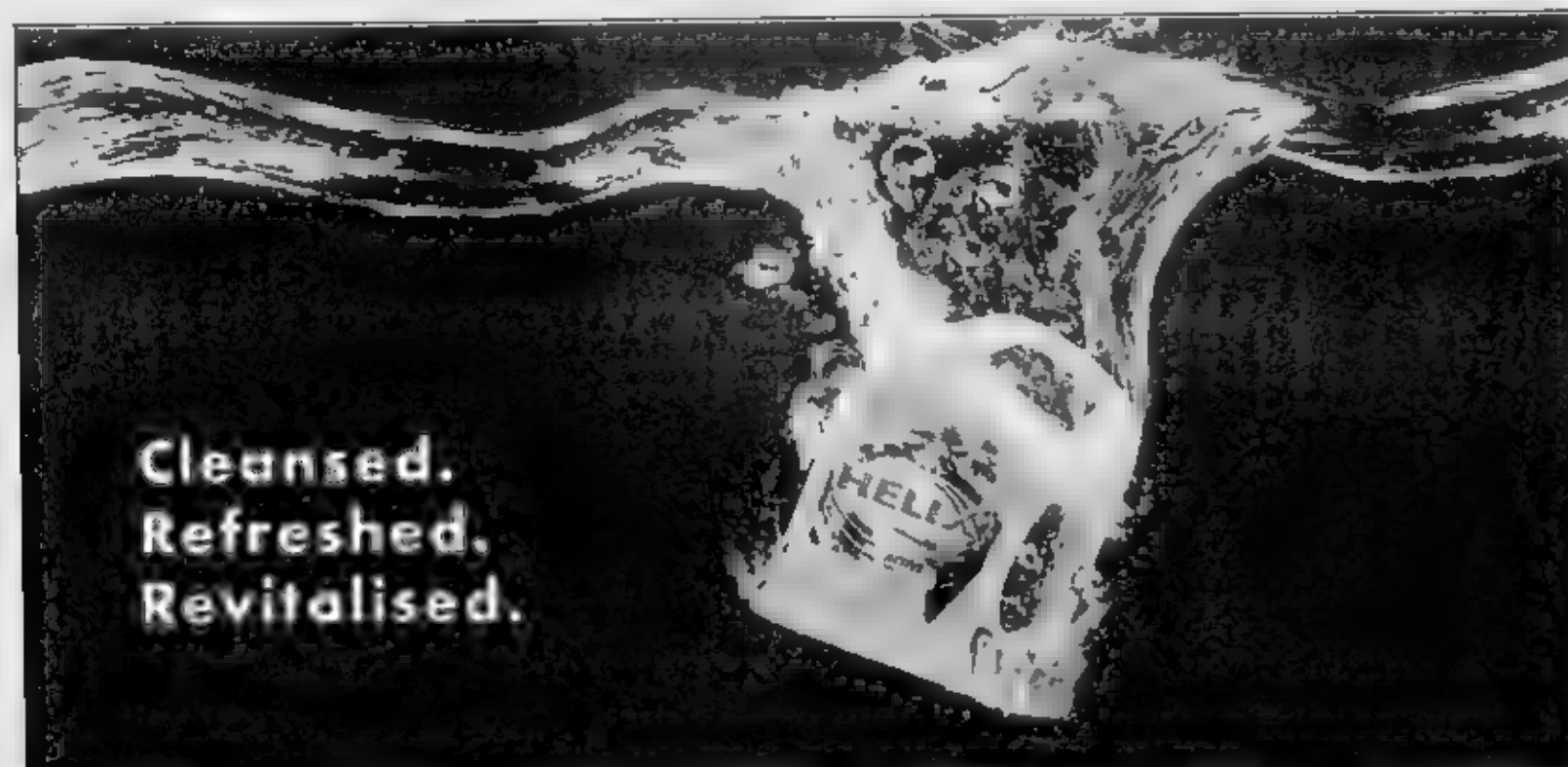
Richardson pointed out that a "key characteristic of democracy" was that "the military submits to civilian control."

"If the civilian leadership continues to fail to prosecute members of the military for their abuses, it calls in the question whether the Philippines really can still claim that label," she said.



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OPINION

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'Criminal' ads

HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST ERAP JOKE? Immediately after being convicted on two counts of plunder, deposed President Joseph Estrada set conditions for his pardon. (Wait, that's not the punchline; we are merely laying the predicate.) Appalled that too many persons in position of power were ready to forget what the convicted plunderer had done, the Foundation for Worldwide People Power began running print advertisements featuring the front page of old Pinoy Times issues. The ads display aspects of Estrada's "atraso" or crimes against the people. Essentially, they say: How easily we forget.

Here's the punchline. In a statement he issued Wednesday, Estrada protested the ads and said: "There is a new attempt to depict me as a criminal in the eyes of the Filipino public."

Are you laughing or crying?

In the first place, there is nothing new about the front pages of the Pinoy Times. The defunct newspaper rose to prominence during the "juetenggate" scandal and the Estrada impeachment trial; the point of the ads, in fact, was to remind the public—and those people in positions of power—of information they already knew, and of the state of public opinion then.

Secondly, "criminal" describes Estrada today not because he is described that way by paid advertisements or in the news columns, but because the Sandiganbayan has already rendered judgment on his plunder case. To be sure, his lawyers have filed a motion for reconsideration, and his conviction, therefore, is not yet final. But even the most optimistic of his counsel find themselves constrained by their own legal arithmetic. Charged with four counts of plunder and convicted on two, Estrada is hoping (or so his lawyers say) that his motion for reconsideration will lead to the dropping of at least one more count.

Besides, all this talk of pardon (and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, the man in charge of the country's law enforcement service, famously trekked to Estrada's Tanay villa to discuss its many possibilities) is conditioned on one non-negotiable: final conviction. For Estrada to enjoy the benefits of executive clemency, which he is now reported to be open to, his conviction as a plunderer must be sustained.

The latest Erap joke includes two corollaries. Estrada also said: "Whoever is behind this ad is obviously not content with the Sandiganbayan's decision and wants to destroy me by all foul means even as I seek to overturn the court's decision with a motion for reconsideration."

The way this sentence is constructed, the way this accusation is phrased, is typical of the Estrada counter-attack. It is premised on the subtle charge that some mysterious group, as malicious as it is mysterious, is behind the ads. And yet the provenance of the ads has been clear from the start. The foundation is identified as the source; its trustees are named; even an e-mail address is provided. "Whoever is behind this ad"—this is not mere laziness, but characteristic innuendo.

And "all foul means"? Does Estrada now claim he is beyond criticism, or that newspapers from the past that show him in an unflattering light cannot be republished, or that a reminder of his "atraso" is unfair and most foul?

His spokesperson, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, also criticized the ads: "They made money from him then, and they will make money from what they're doing to him now."

What is it with Estrada and this concern with commerce? In 2001, after he was charged before the anti-graft court, he opposed the move to televise his plunder trial on similar grounds. The television networks will make money from the trial, he said, and for that reason they should not be allowed to cover the proceedings live. We criticized that attitude then, and we criticize Rodriguez's like-minded argument now.

There is no guarantee that the re-publication of the Pinoy Times issues in book format will turn a profit; the cost of newsprint is prohibitive. In the same way, televising his trial may have simply burdened the networks with the high cost of live coverage; it would have been cheaper, and more lucrative, to air a telenovela.

But even if re-publication or live coverage were profitable, what of it? In this day and age, the best guarantee of freedom of the press is a healthy bottom line. Estrada knows this fact only too well; that is precisely the reason he and his friends launched an advertising boycott of this paper. Ah, yes. How easily we forget.



Barangay polls: Corruption at the grass roots

IF CONGRESS DOES NOT PASS A LAW POSTPONING the barangay elections, the polls will push through as scheduled before the end of this month. It would mean spending billions of pesos for something that we don't need, like the National Broadband Network. We would be better off without barangay elections.

In fact, the barangay and Kabataang Barangay polls have a negative effect on our society. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., father of the Local Government Code who was the guest at the Kapitan sa Manila forum last Monday, agreed with the criticisms against the barangays and endorsed amendments that would cure their defects.

Barangays are our smallest political grouping. Villages were already grouped into barangays before the Philippine Revolution. The barangay captain, or *cabeza de barangay*, was appointed from among the most respected citizens of a village. He served without compensation.

Then our national leaders thought of having the barangay captain elected instead of being appointed. Democracy at the grass roots *daw yon*. Then they added other officials such as *kagawads* and *barangay tanods*, all paid for by the abused taxpayers. And they gave the barangay officials the power to tax their constituents. All these are good in theory but not in practice.

What we did was infect with politics our lowest social grouping, and in the case of the Kabataang Barangay, even the youth. As in the national elections, the barangay polls became a popularity contest. And in a popularity contest, the best do not necessarily come out first in the polls.

So who were elected to barangay positions? The jobless, the *istambays*, the *lasenggos* who have the time to attend long drinking sessions. The more responsible citizens who do not want to go down to the level of *istambay* don't get elected. And because barangay officials get salaries, the jobless and good-for-nothings see them as a source of income and do everything that their national counterparts do to win in the elections. Dirty politics and corruption

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



have seeped down to the barangays.

Once in office, the barangay officials commit abuses. They invent ways to tax their constituents. They collect tongs from squatters and jeepney and tricycle drivers. They even partition vacant lots and rent them out to squatters.

The barangays are supposed to be our first line of defense against squatters. But as it turned out, they are the first to abet and encourage squatting. They even encourage the squatters to resist government efforts to relocate them. The more squatters they coddle, the more votes they garner in elections and the more tongs they collect from them.

Barangays get a share of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). Our barangay gets at least P3 million from the IRA yearly. Where does the money go? Only to the salaries and allowances of the officials. I have not seen a barangay project in our barangay. Still, they have the temerity to levy taxes on their constituents for whom they have done nothing. Everything goes into their pockets. The Commission on Audit (COA) is supposed to audit barangay funds but it does not. Instead of "democracy" at the grass roots, what we have is corruption at the grass roots.

As for the youth, they learn the bad habits of politicians early while campaigning for the KB elections. They will grow up to become adult craps.

So what do we do with the barangay and KB elections? Abolish them. We were better off when barangay captains were appointed.

The NBN deal is dead (?) but its bigger and more expensive twin is still alive: the

P26-billion Cyber Education project (the NBN project is only P12 billion). It will also be funded by a loan from the Chinese government and contracted to Chinese companies. It is the twin evil of NBN and should also be scrapped.

The Cyber-Ed project aims to put television sets in all schools, including those in remote areas where there is no electricity. Through these sets, lessons will be broadcast for 20 minutes every day. Those 20 minutes will cost us P26 billion. That money could be put to better use by building more schools, producing more textbooks, and hiring more and better teachers.

Speaking of textbooks, we can't produce enough of them for all the students because they are changed every few years. But I remember that in the old days, textbooks were durable, hardbound copies that were passed from one student to another. They were rented out to students. Those that were bought by families passed from brother to sister to cousins and even to neighbors. I remember that before enrollment, students went from house to house borrowing textbooks, and books later sported on their flyleaves long lists of the names of students who had used them. The hardbound books were more expensive to produce, yes, but they lasted longer, and more students were able to use each copy.

Then book publishers discovered a way to make more money. They printed not just textbooks but workbooks that students write on and which therefore can be used only once. They are paperbacks and cheaper but have to be changed every year. No borrowing, no passing from one student to another. Every student has to buy a new copy at the start of the school year. Book publishing in the Philippines is now a billion-peso industry and big foreign publishers are printing many of our textbooks.

Maybe we should go back to the old durable textbooks.

Human rights film was initially X-rated?

JOSEPH ESTRADA'S BIOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARY "Ang Mabuhay para sa Masa" was rated X last year because the part about Edsa 2 tended to "incite political rebellion," but the nation was not indignant. The censors took umbrage at the closing line: "Nalalapit na ang bagong umaga dahil sa lakas ng puwersa ng masa at muli nang babangon (A new day is dawning because of the power of the masses and they will rise again)."

Now the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, thus emboldened, has just tried to block a human rights film, because it is "unfair and one-sided [and] undermined [the people's] faith and confidence" in our government, and we are aghast. We have been warned "As thou hast sown, so shall thou reap."

Just last week, I lamented the racist outburst by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on the Senate floor, yet, even as the senator apologized, some readers wrote to defend the Filipino's ingrained anti-Chinese bigotry. Barely one week later, we are all up in arms over a scene from a US TV show, where a lead character, talking to a doctor, said: "Okay, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they're not from some med school in the Philippines." (If all the US-based Filipino doctors and nurses went on strike, won't their health system go haywire? I wonder.)

I didn't realize we would have our dose of poetic justice so swiftly. I had assumed that retribution would come at the glacial pace of Philippine courts. But in the classic Pinoy witicism of my generation, "Bulet day, they will giant us."

I didn't get to see the 13 independent short films depicting our human rights situation during its short run. Apparently, the MTRCB initially rated them "X." (The gradations are, from mildest to wildest: G or GP—General patronage; PG-13—Parental guidance for children under 13; R-13 or R-18—Strictly for persons above a certain age; and X—Not for public viewing.) As of this writing, the MTRCB has mercifully revised its position and released the film for a wider R-13 audience.

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan



Collectively entitled "Rights," the film series apparently consists of clips as short as regular TV commercials, independently produced, and shows disappearances and scenes of torture. The killings are no fabrication. Government and UN fact-finders have all confirmed them, and they have warranted action, no less, from the Supreme Court.

The films, reports say, had none of the usual excuse for censorship, namely, obscenity. Remember "Kapit sa Patalim," a socially relevant Lino Brocka film for which the censors were haled all the way to the Supreme Court during the twilight years of the Marcos-era? The government tried to suppress it by citing nudity in the depiction of bar girls. A few years ago, in a bizarre move, the censors gave an R-rating to "Schindler's List" because, and this gets even sicker, it showed naked bodies inside the gas chambers!

Party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran hit the nail right on the head: "It's not [for the MTRCB] to judge the [film's] content on whether or not it undermines the public's faith and confidence in the government. It will be up to the audience to decide that."

Beltran has seized the heart of the doctrine allowing only the "content-neutral" regulation of speech. Government may not regulate speech on the basis of its message, but only on its overall effect that, in this case, would pose a "clear and present danger." In other words, in our constitutional order, there can never be such a thing as a government-sanctioned truth, a politically approved official version that we are all bound to accept. "The best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition

of the market," said Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

It is a rejection of what US Supreme Court Justice William Douglas called the "suffocating influence of orthodoxy and standardized thought."

That is why when the MTRCB justifies its X-rating by saying that "Rights" was "unfair and one-sided," its decision was content-based, but it would scarcely give me any comfort if the MTRCB reverses itself by saying that it was fair and objective after all. Whether speech is biased or balanced is for the audience, not any government board, to decide.

The sole question before any government agency should be whether the danger posed by the speech is so imminent that it is "dangerous to leave the correction of evil counsels to time." The classic formulation was made by Holmes: "The question in every case is whether the words used are used in such circumstances and are of such a nature as to create a clear and present danger that they will bring about the substantive evils that Congress has a right to prevent." I understand that the MTRCB eventually found its way and applied the clear and present danger test.

My real worry is not about government behaving badly. It is about a passive people immobilized by political correctness and unwilling to advance "freedom for the thought that we hate."

My other concern is that we have already sent a chilling effect on young and independent film-makers, who may now shy away from politically sensitive topics. Worse, it may have scared away film producers and potential investors.

The libertarian Douglas warned us to be alert to these slow encroachments on our liberties. "As nightfall does not come at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there is a twilight where everything remains seemingly unchanged, and it is in such twilight that we must be aware of change in the air; however slight, lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness."

Comments to passionforreason@mail.com

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Asean double talk

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



WHEN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST Asian Nations expressed "revulsion" at the brutal crackdown of protesters calling for the end of Burma's military dictatorship, the statement was hailed as the strongest condemnation yet by Asean of the repressive Burmese junta.

It was also a disgusting manifestation of Asean's prevarication and double talk on Burma, and a revelation that Asean is the weakest regional bloc of nations with hardly any influence at all to bring pressure on the Burmese generals to negotiate a reconciliation with the democracy movement led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

The statement, issued after the Asean foreign ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, urged the junta "to exercise utmost restraint and seek a political solution" to the crisis. The statement said the ministers "were appalled" by reports that automatic weapons were being used to fire at the protesters in Rangoon and demanded that the government "immediately desist from the use of violence."

In the statement issued by Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo, the ministers called for the release of all political prisoners, including Suu Kyi. Singapore is now chair of Asean.

To show how the junta regards Asean as no more than a nuisance, the slaughter continued unabated for days, with at least 10 more people being killed (more than a hundred according to human rights groups). More than a thousand monks have been seized in their pagodas and detained in concentration centers outside Rangoon since last week's massacre.

The Burmese massacre has confronted Asean with its worst crisis of credibility as a regional organization that can be taken seriously in its aspirations to be a significant political and economic entity since its founding 40 years ago.

Singapore, as rotating chair for the rest of 2007, speaks on behalf of the 10 Asean members, but its chairmanship and the position it pronounces in this crisis underline Asean's prevarication on the case of Burma.

No less disgusting than Asean's righteous condemnation was that of the President Macapagal-Arroyo, who took a moral high ground in a speech at the Assembly. She said, "This is the time for Burma to return to the path of democracy and to release Aung San Suu Kyi and to involve all parties... in the democratization and the constitutional process."

Without being embarrassed, she held up the Philippines as "the most democratic country" in our region. "We have no tolerance for human rights violations at home and abroad," she said.

These pronouncements from the more articulate Asean leaders could only have served to increase the scorn of Gen. Than Shwe's cabal for Asean as a toothless creature.

When Ibrahim Gambari, the UN's special envoy who had an urgent mission to end the crackdown, left Burma after four days of talks with the junta and Suu Kyi, he said he had delivered a "strong message" to the junta. But UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he could not call the mission a "success."

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong published "an unusually severe" letter, which "strongly urged" General Shwe to "work with Mr. Gambari to try to find a way forward," saying that the conflict in Burma "will have serious implications not only for itself (Burma) but also for Asean and the whole region." Apparently, the junta did not listen to this appeal.

But Singapore's dilemma, as well as Asean's hypocrisy, was underlined by Singapore's extensive economic relations with Burma, which have thrown an economic lifeline to the junta to blunt economic and political sanctions from the United

States and the European Union, among others. Without referring to the economic relations between Burma and key players, such as China, Japan, India and Russia, Singapore's ties with Burma are cited in the context of Asean's weak influence in effecting political change in Burma.

Andrew Selth, a research fellow at Queensland's Griffith University, has written in Jane's Intelligence Review that with an estimated \$2.65 billion at stake in Burma, Singapore compares "have been some of the biggest investors in Burma's military junta." Selth said that Singapore "has sent the junta guns, rockets, armored personnel carriers and grenade launchers." Singapore companies have also provided computers and networking equipment for Burma's defense ministry and army, "while upgrading the junta's ability to network with regional commanders."

A former assistant secretary of state for the US Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Robert Gelhard, has said half of Singapore's investment in Burma has "been tied to the family of narco-trafficker Lo Hsing Han."

Singapore is hosting Asean's annual meeting in November, when the organization is scheduled to approve its first charter designed to make it a more effective rules-based organization. The charter was drafted in Manila this year, and was hailed as a "victory for human rights," but due to the Asean concept of making decisions by consensus, the draft fudged provisions for sanctions to discipline member states violating human rights.

The Burmese crackdown pushes Asean to a moment of decision on the issue of transforming it into a rules-based organization with disciplinary and binding authority. This will test whether Asean members with economic interests in Burma, including Singapore and Thailand, can summon the political will to bring Burma into line with the draft's objectives. The showdown in Singapore in November could break up Asean's project of political integration or result in Burma's expulsion. The second outcome appears remote.

Sleeping gods

EVER SINCE I BEGAN PARENTING, I'VE RARELY BEEN able to go out at night except when I'm on a business trip. Which was what happened Tuesday night, in Cebu, when I was able to stroll leisurely along Fuente Osmeña, one of the city's centers.

Cebu is pleasant, very much urbanized, but much less congested than Manila. I also see less of the despair you see in Metro Manila. There, even the middle class seems to trudge along, living day to day in reluctant, sometimes resentful, resignation. In Cebu, I sense a bit more hope, a sense that life's getting better.

The public opinion polls have always shown higher approval ratings in the Visayas and Mindanao for President Macapagal-Arroyo and one interpretation is that people in the South feel some affinity with her, Ms. Arroyo having spent part of her childhood in Iligan City, where she learned to speak Cebuano. But Cebuanos tell me, too, she doesn't speak their language that well and they still think of her as Kapampangan.

I've wondered if her higher approval ratings in the South reflect less support for her per se than an expression of the Visayans' (that generic term for Cebuanos, Ilonggos and anyone from the South) easy-going disposition. With the Visayans, what you have is not just a joy, but a zest for life. To borrow Internet jargon, the South has a real LOL culture, people Laughing Out Loud much more.

Beer grande Tagalogs always say the Visayans are extravagant, and to some extent it's true. But that willingness to spend has to be understood as part of their congeniality. In the same way that they laugh out loud more easily, there's a sense that one shouldn't just share, but splurge, on good fortune and good time.

I'll explain using beer. I was experiencing a bit of writer's block in Cebu so on the way back to my hotel, I dropped by a restaurant for a drink to jog my brain cells a bit. When I asked for beer, the waitress pulled out a San Miguel Grande—a liter of beer.

"Dako man," I protested about the size, and asked if they had regular bottles. No, she said apologetically, they carried two brands, San Miguel and Red Horse, and they only had Grande versions. These liter-sized beers are available in Metro Manila but aren't popular as regular drinking fare. I think that's because people in Manila (and probably the rest of Luzon) drink to compete. Drinking sessions are a bit like chess, each "contestant" holding on to his bottle like a chess piece. In front of him are the consumed bottles of beer, empty but left there like chess pieces on display. They're also there so Mr. Macho can boast of his drinking ability.

In the Visayas, drinking is more of a socialization activity. If there's any competition, it's beating the other person to pick up the Grande bottle and pour beer into his companions' glasses. The empty Grande bottles are left on the table, too, but there's no way to tell who's been drinking more. It doesn't matter since the drinking is a communal activity rather than some kind of alcohol Olympics.

Telenovelas Woe then to those who can't find a drinking companion in the Visayas. Fortunately, I was with someone else from Manila, so we did our drinking Busaya-style under a television set that was blaring out a telenovela on an ABS/CBN channel.

I hadn't realized telenovelas went on so late at night. It was 10 o'clock, but here the TV set was blaring away with the melodrama and histrionics you associate with daytime soaps. The characters were all too familiar: someone sick, someone dying, someone missing, someone cheating on a partner.

I couldn't follow the plot, or rather the many sub-plots, so I switched to anthropologist-journalist mode, and began to watch passersby and the people drinking. I realized that except for the waitress, everyone in the restaurant was male. It's mainly the men who can afford to stop by, after work, to get a drink, or a late-night snack. Women have to rush home.

I watched an old woman on the sidewalk, selling cigarettes. One time she got up and began to sweep, and I realized how very hunched back she was, clearly from osteoporosis. And as she swept away, I was reminded that amid Cebu's glitter, there's still so much poverty. Earlier in the afternoon, I had gone to one of the markets and I saw kids, unwashed, stomachs bloated from worms, running around naked.

I also dropped by the Basilica of the Sto. Niño. The vendors outside were selling the usual range of Sto. Niño statues, and assorted religious paraphernalia. I picked up two pamphlets, both in Cebuano. One gave a horoscope for children born this year, all the way down to predictions of longevity. The other was a guide to interpreting moles—lucky ones, unlucky ones, not-so-lucky ones.

Meanwhile the television soap went on. I finally asked my friend what its title was. He was surprised I didn't know. "Naturulog pa ang Diyos," he said. God's still asleep. I thought, hum... we used the theme song of Pinoy Big Brother as our national march during the last Southeast Asian Games, so why not convert this telenovela title into our national motto. The Americans have "In God we trust," we could go "Naturulog pa ang Diyos!"

I'm serious. God or the gods have to be sleeping, given the way so many of our politicians get away with so many scams. The gods must be sleeping, too, to have allowed Ms. Arroyo to become the country's longest-serving President. Or does she just have lucky moles?

Just a month ago, I would have JWJ (Jumped with joy) with Benjamin Abalos' resignation. But coming this week, his resignation just might co-opt the investigations of alleged bribes. Life could return to normal, meaning people going their way—the old hunchbacked woman, the emaciated kids in the market—people consulting horoscopes and guides to moles.

There was a station break, and I called my friend's attention, "Huy, the correct title is 'Naturulog ba ang Diyos?'" One consonant and there's a world of a difference in the title. Instead of "God's still sleeping" we have "Does God ever sleep?" He was defensive, explaining that he always thought it was "pa" rather than "ba" and anyway it was probably more appropriate to ask why the gods were still asleep. How else, he argued, could one misfortune after the other occur in the telenovela.

Sleeping gods, or gods that never sleep? You decide, while we're going through this lull in politics. I was thinking even internationally, like the quiet in Burma after the military cracked down on protests led by monks.

The politicians should be grateful that people seem to be ready to take whatever comes their way, whatever the gods' disposition might be. But the powers that be shouldn't be too confident. This could also be the calm before the storm.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



The business of being Senate president

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



the Senate is a step forward.

"I'm a businessman," is Villar's terse explanation for how he was able to speed up business on the Senate floor despite the high-profile investigations that preoccupied the chamber's and the nation's attentions these past months.

"When people ask me how I am doing (as a manager), I don't want to cite my plans, I want to cite what I have accomplished," he elaborates. Asked how the Senate managed to pass so many bills despite the infighting among senators, Villar says, smiling, "that's when the Senate president steps in." And judging from his impressive output, Villar must have done some heavy "stepping in" these past few weeks. How many and whose toes did he step on?

In contrast, he seems to have kept a largely peripheral, background role in the investigations on the re-opened "Garcia" wiretapping (and election manipulation) scandal, and the ZTE broadband deal. "You won't see me stopping anyone from conducting an investigation if they want to," he states. But he does make his views known, he says, when the probes touch on "the dignity of the chamber and the interest of the nation."

Even with the resignation from the Comelec of Chair Benjamin Abalos and the announced scrapping of the NBN deal with Chinese firm ZTE, the investigation will go on, Villar believes. "But I think we have to move on to other concerns, like whether the NBN is still needed, and whether the government has the capability to administer such a complex technological operation."

IN ALL his years in politics, Villar has yet to give

the public—and the media—cause for gossip, speculation or undue curiosity.

The way he describes his life outside the political arena, one can understand why. "I rarely get angry. I may get annoyed or exasperated, but you won't see me picking a fight with anyone," he says. "Rather than waste my time and energy fighting with you, I'd rather just watch a movie," he says, adding as an aside that when he finds things too stressful in the Senate "I'll call my daughter Camille and ask her to watch a movie with me."

Camille is the youngest of his three children with Rep. Cynthia Villar, who is on her last term in the House and who heads the Lady Legislators' group. They met when they were classmates at the College of Business Administration in UP and in all, he says with some pride, "we would have been together for almost 39 years."

Cynthia deserves some credit for seeing the potential in this "poor boy from Tondo," whose stories of his boyhood in an impoverished household, helping his mother raise the money for the survival of all nine siblings, are the stuff of political lore. But contrary to common belief—that Cynthia's well-to-do family bankrolled his business interests—Villar says proudly that "I haven't touched a single cent of my wife's inheritance from her family."

THE STORY of his rise from a simple loans officer to the head of the country's biggest real estate conglomerate which was founded on Villar's brilliant idea of providing bridge financing for homes of lower middle-class families, has been often told. And the way he tells it, it all began with "gut feel" and looking for the right opportunities. He admits that another "pastime" of his, to relieve the stress of politics, is meeting with his executives and "strategizing" with them.

And it all began, he says, on those mornings when, as a boy of 11, he helped his mother sell shrimp in Divisoria and he would hang around, listening to the wheeling-and-dealing of the Chinese traders all around him. Obviously, he listened well, and learned a lot.

La Naval

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



AFTER EVENING MASS LAST OCT. 1, ATENEO president Bienvenido Nebres, SJ blessed and distributed what Ateneo boys call "October Medals." These medals, with an image of the Virgin Mary which are better known as the "Miraculous Medals," have pretty blue ribbons on them and are pinned above the heart for the whole month of October, the month of Mary, the month of the Holy Rosary.

As a boy I dreaded October because then we were gathered on the grade school grounds and made to pray the rosary standing in the heat. We were told that if one looked at the gathering from the roof (or perhaps using Google Earth), the students formed a human rosary. All this is part of my childhood memories.

Given a medal last year, I wore it without realizing it looked good on grade school boys but not on an adult. Nevertheless, it was very impressive, hanging from the breast pocket of a black coat. When I wore it to a diplomatic reception, a handful of diplomats inquired what decoration it was and what country had conferred it on me. Naturally, I was tempted to claim it as the Order of Kalantiaw, but I couldn't pass for a retired Supreme Court justice, so I just told the truth.

I'm not especially religious, but when I realized that this year is the centennial of the canonical coronation of the venerated Virgin of the Holy Rosary in Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City, a.k.a. "La Naval de Manila," I decided to wear the October medal again. I never attend La Naval processions, because there are 364 other days in the year when you can visit the church, find parking and pray in peace.

What I know of the procession I have heard from devotees who make the sacrifice of braving the weather and waiting with the crowd.

What little I know about the image I learned from the late Nick Joaquin, National Artist for Literature, San Miguel Beer endorser and devotee of La Naval. He was old enough to have known in

tramuros before it was destroyed during the Battle for Manila in 1945 and described the dark cavern that was the Dominican church where Masses and novenas were held in honor of La Naval. Joaquin narrated how the image was associated not just with an ancient naval battle in 1571 between Christians and the Turks, now known to history as the Battle of Lepanto. The Christian victory was attributed to the Virgin Mary. In 1646, a Christian fleet defended the Philippines from a Dutch invasion. That naval victory, too, was attributed to the Virgin Mary. Today the image of wood with the heads of the Virgin and the Infant Jesus carved from ivory is one of the most venerated images in the Philippines.

Over the centuries, Joaquin said, La Naval was embellished with gold, silver and precious stones, and those who gazed upon her got a glimpse of majesty and a taste of heaven. Joaquin ended his classic 1943 essay on La Naval with this description:

"Many an October evening while watching this procession of La Naval, and having divined, by a general excitement, the approach of the image, he has heard the cries and trumpets of the passing concourse. He has seen her blaze into vision against the skies of his city, born upon cloud of incense and music, her face on fire with jewels and mysterious with the veneration of centuries, with gleaming rainbows forming and falling all about her and silken doves bobbing white among her flowers of gold and silver—Oh, beautiful and radiant as an apparition!—the Presence at Lepanto,

Lady and Queen and Mother of Manila, the Virgin of the Fifteen Mysteries."

Re-reading Joaquin on La Naval made me wonder how this rowdy man with a bottle of cervena in hand could wax lyrical over a centuries-old image of the Virgin. It was like Jekyll turning into Hyde. Next to La Naval, I guess, only San Miguel beer could tame Nick Joaquin.

Today the ancient image is not allowed to leave the church. A replica has been made of similarly precious ivory and hardwood, and it is this image that goes around the streets in the annual procession, hence she is fondly known as "La Callejera" or the "street-walker." We have electric lights now and the *carroza* that carries La Callejera in procession runs smoothly on concrete roads. Everything must have been more magnificent in Intramuros.

Each time I gaze on the image, I try not to be distracted by her jewels. Yet there was a time when I brought binoculars to Sto. Domingo to get a closer look. There are two pieces in the treasury I have been hoping to see adorning the image of La Naval. First, is the National Artist medalion of Nick Joaquin, a heavy, tacky chain of gold-plated bronze and enamel that he offered to the Virgin. I am told it is there somewhere, but I have yet to see the Virgin wear it. This medalion isn't worth very much, and if offered to a pawnshop, it will probably be refused, but coming from Nick Joaquin, this means quite a lot.

The second jewel I have been hoping to see is a trinket once worn by the Infant Jesus. It has been described as "a solid gold medalion in the shape of a shell encrusted with eight diamonds, twenty-nine chispas, eight pearls and twenty-four emeralds." A gift of Ana Roxas in 1892, it had been given to her by Norodom I, King of Cambodia, when he visited the Philippines in 1872. And that is another story.

Comments are welcome at anocampo@ateneo.edu

A House bill anchored on inverted logic

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL, ALAS, about the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs that their employees should be exempted from the coverage of Republic Act 6758, the law that provides for a uniform salary structure for all government employees? (INQUIRER, 9/29/07)

The realities are clear: employees of these two revenue-collecting agencies do enjoy comparatively far higher living standards than their counterparts in the public service. And that, quite sadly, is undeniably because the former earn "extra" (read: shady) incomes that the latter do not.

It is bad enough that the implementation of the Lateral Attrition Law leaves very much to be desired—given that the BIR



Where Neri succeeded

COMELEC CHAIR BENJAMIN ABALOS' resignation was not an act of *delicadeza*. It was an act of desperation made to enhance the administration's chances for survival. The efforts of some administration senators fell short in quelling public interest in what has been dubbed as the NBN *telenovela*, hence, the need for Abalos to sacrifice his leech-like hold on power. Still, Abalos' resignation failed to silence the calls for transparency and accountability in the NBN scam.

Moreover, Abalos, not CHED Chair Romulo Neri as earlier perceived, is now emerging as the "real deal in the NBN deal." Neri succeeded in refocusing the blame on Abalos while he continues to invoke executive privilege to save his and his principal's skin. Abalos, on the other hand, has nothing else to lose if he decides to tell all.

—SARAH KATRINA MARAMAG, vice chair, Anakbayan, Barangay Pag-Asa, Quezon City

With due respect to Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, its author, his bill simply reflects inverted logic.

—RUDYL CORONEL, 10 Venus St., Golden Country Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City

Narra exploration report out

IN RELATION TO THE NEWS ARTICLE titled "This land is mined" (INQUIRER, 8/9/07), our technical personnel has submitted an investigation report (dated Sept. 3, 2007) re the "Alleged Illegal Exploration Activities at Barangay Dumanguena, Narra, Palawan." The report disclosed, among others, that exploration activities, such as auger drilling and test-pitting, were purportedly undertaken by Hai Cheng Nickel Mining Corporation in Barangay Tartinien, Narra, Palawan, inside the area covered by the company's application for exploration.

Inasmuch as exploration work conducted without the necessary exploration permit constitutes a violation of the provision under Sec. 102 of Republic Act No. 7942 (Philippine Mining Act of 1995), we have directed the subject company to submit a deposition regarding the matter.

—ROLAND A. DE JESUS, officer in charge, regional director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. IV-B (Mimaropa), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

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CORE VALUES
Passionate love for God
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength."
Matthew 22:37-39
Love and compassion for others
"Be merciful to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; love those who hate you; and pray for those who persecute you."
Matthew 5:44-48
Integrity
"Be true. Do not swear by heaven or earth or Jerusalem, for you are not; but let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes' and your 'No' mean 'No.'"
Matthew 5:33-37
Faithfulness
"Be faithful to the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and with all your resources."
Matthew 22:37-39
Excellence
"Do your best in everything, as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for men."
Colossians 3:23

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9

Senate summons Mike Arroyo

From page A1

and four members of the House of Representatives, including his wife, Rep. Laarni Cayetano, will be leaving for Geneva for a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

"I'm not going anywhere during the break. And I suppose at least one-third of the blue ribbon committee members are staying behind," Lacson said.

Gripping senators

He said the ZTE contract deserved a thorough autopsy. "It is not correct to say the hearings have become useless and long-winded. We need to hear more from [newspaper columnist] Janus Bondoc, Joey de Venecia and other resource persons willing to shed light on this issue," he said.

Cayetano said Lacson and Madrigal were gripping because he broke ranks with most of the opposition senators and voted for Villar in the race for the Senate presidency, along with administration allies.

Cayetano said that he had sent invitations to Ms Arroyo's husband, De Venecia, resigned Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., Bondoc and unspecified Cabinet members.

"We are going 100-percent full steam ahead with this inquiry. We'll have to get to the bottom of this mess to find out whether President Arroyo and her husband had anything to do with the fat rickshaws in the broadband deal," he said.

The day before, Cayetano virtually put the hearings in limbo as he could not set the date for the next ZTE hearing because the Senate is going on a one-month recess.

Cayetano said the hearings were suspended to allow the senators to focus on gathering documents and other evidence.

The blue ribbon committee chair said that the key witnesses



VILLAR: No call, no pressure.



MADRIGAL: We should have hearing this week as planned



CAYETANO: Not all investigations are in front of camera.

were not sure of attending (like Romulo Neri) and that they had nothing new to say (like De Venecia and Bondoc) based on his conversations with them.

It was Neri who disclosed at a Senate hearing last week that Abalos had offered him a P200-million bribe early this year to endorse the ZTE proposal. Abalos has denied Neri's allegation.

Neri was then the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the agency that reviews government projects.

Cayetano stood by his decision not to schedule a hearing this week or the next two weeks amid allegations by Madrigal that Malacañang and a powerful businessman had asked him and Villar to suspend the hearings apparently to kill the momentum generated by the explosive testimonies in the previous hearings.

Cayetano said the blue ribbon committee had left it to the technical working group headed by Rodolfo Quimbo to sift through the paperwork in the next 10 to 14 days and decide whether there was still a need to hold further hearings.

Cayetano said that this was the part of the investigation process

that was being done off camera. "Not all investigations are done in front of the cameras," he told reporters.

Cayetano admitted that he knew Enrique Razon, who has been linked to the ZTE deal and who has been alleged to have threatened Neri in a dispute over port monopoly.

'My way'

The blue ribbon committee chair said Razon was a friend of his father's, the late Sen. Rene Cayetano, "but I'm not extra ordinarily close (to Razon) at all."

Cayetano accused his critics of having "a personal agenda," but he stood firm in stating that he would continue to run the blue ribbon his way until the majority of the members oust him.

Although he was tempted to respond to his fellow senators, Cayetano said he would not respond to rumors (that he allegedly got \$1 million from Razon to suspend the hearings).

He said he would rather keep his poise and let his critics "wait for the results."

"There are some who are zealous to have a hearing but we have to think of things bigger than one's desire to have a hearing immediately,"

ZTE says it's not only business as usual in RP, it's expanding

DESPITE THE CANCELLATION of its supply contract to build the Philippine government's National Broadband Network (NBN), Zhongxing Telecommunications Equipment (ZTE) Corp. yesterday said it would continue to do business in the country.

"The Philippine NBN project is an isolated case. It will not affect ZTE's business development in the Philippines and around the globe. Since the NBN project is still not an effective contract, it will not also affect ZTE's annual performance," Howard Xue, ZTE global marketing director, said in a statement.

Xue reiterated that the company had offered the best technical and financial proposal for the NBN project, which was approved by the Philippine government.

He said ZTE "will respect the decision made by both the Chinese and Philippine governments" to cancel the \$329-million contract for the NBN project awarded to the company.

In a separate statement, ZTE Philippines vice president Zhang Yu said the company had been doing business in Manila since 2002.

Yu noted that ZTE had successfully partnered with more than 30 local communications providers on numerous long-term projects.

More business ventures

Despite the cancellation of the ZTE deal, Xue and Yu said the company was expanding its office in Makati in preparation for more business ventures.

"ZTE is currently setting into a 1,500-square-meter business center to accommodate over 120 employees, 50 percent of whom are Filipinos," Yu said.

"The move shows that ZTE's long-term dedication and confidence in the Philippine market," Xue said.

"ZTE will further strengthen its cooperation with local telecom players and continue to provide the world-leading and cost-effective telecom equipment and services for the Philippine market."

ZTE is the only listed telecom manufacturer in China with shares publicly traded on the Hong Kong and Shenzhen stock exchanges.

To date, ZTE has established commercial partnerships with more than 500 operators in 120 countries worldwide, the ZTE executives said.

Two groups of Filipino and Chinese corporate chief executives yesterday said they were unfazed by the ZTE issue and were actively looking at opportunities in the country despite the controversy.

Susan Barin, cofounder of the Chief Executive Officers Club Philippines chapter, told reporters that the "ZTE story" was not something members worried about because they were doing business with fellow members, which for them meant a seal of confidence.

China CEOs visiting

She was referring to a visiting 11-person team from CEO Club China, which is scheduled to meet with officials of the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority today for an investment briefing.

Barin said the Chinese team was here to meet with local businessmen and explore investment opportunities in their areas of interest.

Jing Ping Li, founder of the Beijing-based China chapter which is also known as Global CEO Clubs, said the projects included a 8,000-sq.m. Chinese cultural restaurant that would rise in either Makati or Roxas Boulevard.

Reports from Riza T. Olchondra and Ronnel W. Domingo

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NPAs raid Camarines Norte mine site



PHILIP RAO

A child plays with a performer's G-string at the recently held Am-Among Festival in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

CAMP NAKAR, LUCENA CITY—AT LEAST 40 New People's Army rebels raided an Australian gold mining operation in Camarines Norte Wednesday and took an undetermined number of firearms, according to the spokesman of the military's Southern Luzon Command based here.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang said that at around 2:30 p.m., the communist guerrillas attacked El Dore Mining Corp. in its mining site in Barangay Dumagang in Labo town.

Quoting military reports, Cabangbang said that aside from the seized firearms, the NPA rebels also torched two pieces of heavy equipment, three company vehicles, took office equipment and several cell phones of company personnel.

After the raid, the communist rebels fled to Barangay Malaya in the same town.

Earlier, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal announced a directive from the CPP to stop the operations of mining firms, mostly foreign corporations, in various parts of the country.

In Davao Oriental, the directive to cease mining operations came from Gov. Corazon Malanyaon who ordered a halt to mining activities in the towns of Lupon and Banaybanay because of too much violence spawned by

the search for gold and nickel.

"We really have to put a stop to the ongoing anarchy in these minerals-rich towns," Malanyaon said, during a dialogue with small-scale miners here Tuesday.

She said the incidents of violence, which already resulted in the deaths of several people, are too serious to be ignored.

Among the most prominent victims of rivalry among miners in Lupon and Banaybanay, according to the police, was Sulaiman Alilian, municipal election officer of Governor Generoso town.

Alilian operated a small-scale mining business in the two towns. "I am deeply alarmed. There is also the presence of many private armies employed by small-scale miners in these municipalities," Malanyaon said.

She said private armies were mostly responsible for the violence taking place in the two towns.

Defin Mallari, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Aquiles Z. Zonia, Inquirer Mindanao

ROUNDUP

Cop kills cop

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A policeman was shot and killed by another policeman after they quarreled inside a restaurant in Aparri, Cagayan, on Sept. 21. Cagayan police director Senior Supt. Jude Santos said P03 Norlindo Iringan, a member of the 201st police provincial mobile group based in Aparri, and SPO1 Gregorio Mangabat grappled for a .38 cal. gun after their argument. Santos said the gun, which was owned by Iringan, went off during the scuffle, sending a bullet into Iringan's chest. Mangabat surrendered to the local police. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Crocodiles in irrigation canal

BACOLOD CITY—Residents of a Bago City barangay expressed fear over their children's safety as they found another crocodile in a nearby irrigation canal. Barangay Captain Raymundo Abuano of Barangay Abuanan, Bago City said the crocodile, which was found on Sunday afternoon, was the fifth found in the area. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

8 stolen cars seized

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Traffic Management Group (TMG) based in Cebu City seized eight vehicles, believed to have been stolen, since last week. Insp. Doroteo Tolentino, who led the TMG team, said there could be 20 more hot cars so d here by dealers believed to be members of a nationwide car theft syndicate. *KH Bagaipo, Inquirer Visayas*

Floods destroy P20M in crops

BACOLOD CITY—Recent heavy rains and floods in Negros Occidental have brought losses in paly and vegetables worth P20.2 million. Provincial Agriculturist Igmedio Tablanan reported to Gov. Joseph Marañon Sept. 27. More than 7,000 hectares of paly and 9.6 hectares of various vegetable farms were submerged in floodwater last week, displacing 2,318 farmers, Tablanan said. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

57-75 Movement in Pampanga

ANGELES CITY—The 57-75 Movement, a national multi-sectoral campaign that seeks to reverse the education crisis in the Philippines, has taken off in Pampanga.

The provincial government, Department of Education, Ateneo de Manila University, Holy Angel University, local governments and private groups signed a memorandum of agreement to start education programs in five pilot districts: Mabalacat North, Porac West, Floridablanca West, Minalin and San Luis.

Gov. Eddie Panlilio, who initiated the 57-75 Movement, said the campaign aims to reduce the number of student dropouts, and improve comprehension skills and overall achievements of pupils in public elementary schools. *Tonette Drejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Burglars break into town hall

CAMP SATURNINO DUMLAO, Nueva Vizcaya—Burglars on Thursday broke into the municipal hall of Villaverde town, taking away at least P5,000 in cash as well as government records and other documents, police said.

Senior Supt. Segundo Duran, provincial police director, said the burglars also ransacked the local court, which is on the second floor of the town hall in Barangay Poblacion. They took P5,000 and court records. Investigators said the burglars destroyed door locks to gain access to the court and municipal hall. *Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Cops rescue kidnapped trader

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police recently rescued a Chinese businessman in Mabalacat, Pampanga, three days after he was abducted in Binondo. Villagers in Mabalacat saw Tomas Tom Sy, who also identified himself as Pang, being dragged into a dump by his abductors.

Senior Supt. Keith Ernaid Singian, Pampanga police director, quoted Sy as saying three men who spoke with a "Chinese accent" took him aboard a Starex van with license plate RDC-146.

The suspects eluded police checkpoints aboard a Lucida van with license plate RDZ-146. *Tonette Drejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Councilor found dead

DAGUPAN CITY—A councilor of Anda, Pangasinan, was found dead on Wednesday inside his room in the family's house in Sual town, police said.

The body of Charles Lee Klóngson, 23, a first term councilor, was discovered by his father, Reynaldo, when he was about to remind his son that he was attending a council session that day.

Chief Insp. Medardo Soriano, Sual police chief, said Klóngson had a bullet wound in the head. Soriano suspected that Klóngson had committed suicide. A 9 mm Taurus pistol and a spent shell were found near Klóngson's body.

Klóngson was a third year law student at the Lyceum Northwestern University here. *Gabriel Cardilloza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Candy made in China downs 23 Cebu kids

CEBU CITY—TWENTY-THREE schoolchildren in Barangay San Agustin of Madridejos, one of the three towns on Bantayan Island in northern Cebu, were hospitalized when they fell ill after eating a China-made candy shortly before 10 a.m. yesterday.

The children, mostly between 9-10 years old and all Grade 4 pupils at the San Agustin Elementary School, suffered numbness in their hands, followed by stomach cramps and vomiting after they ate the candies distributed by one of their classmates, Raquel Cueva, who was celebrating her 10th birthday yesterday, according to school teacher Romeo Matus, the children's class adviser.

The candy, called "Ube Milk

Candy," was bought by Rachele Cueva, Raquel's mother, from a general merchandise stall owned by a certain "Yvonne" at the public market of Bantayan town, according to Bantayan councilor Marlon Pacaña.

Matus said the candy wrapper he recovered showed that the candy was manufactured in Guangdong, China. It also has another marking, "Sweet world Philippines," believed to be the importer of the product.

Pacaña said he has already ordered the municipal health office to pull out the China-made candies from Yvonne's store and from other stores selling the candy at the Bantayan public market.

Pacaña said Yvonne informed

him that she bought the candies from a store in Carbon Market in Cebu City.

Pacaña said Yvonne also told him that she had been buying China-made candies from the same store in Carbon market and this was the first time that it caused food poisoning.

Of the 23 afflicted children, only four remained at the Bantayan District Hospital as they were very weak and required the infusion of intravenous fluids, according to nurse on duty Annie Tulod.

Madridejos Councilor Emmy Matus, the sister of schoolteacher Romeo, said she would bring the confiscated product to the Bureau of Food and Drugs in mainland

Cebu for examination.

A check at the BFAD website, however, showed that as of July 2007, the candy was not in the list of registered processed food products from China.

Schoolteacher Matus said he has 37 pupils in his Grade 4 class but the others were spared because they didn't eat their candies.

Matus said he went out and left the pupils inside the room during a 15-minute recess. When he came back for the next subject, Matus said he saw one of his students, Ariel Ilusorio, writhing in pain and vomiting. Soon after, other children also started getting sick. *Jhun-nex Napallacan with a report from Nilda Gallo, Inquirer Visayas*

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DATE	TIME	TOPIC
11 Oct (Thurs)	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Electrical Product Safety
	2:05 - 3:05 PM	Warranties
	3:10 - 4:10 PM	Standards in our Daily Lives
	4:15 - 5:15 PM	Shipping Balikbayan Boxes: Do's and Don'ts
12 Oct (Fri)	10:30 - 11:30 AM	Consumer Rights and Responsibilities
	11:35 - 12:35 PM	Empowering Consumers through Intellectual Property
	12:45 - 2:00 PM	Good Nutrition
	2:05 - 3:30 PM	Comfort Redefined: Safety and Quality of Flat Glass
13 Oct (Sat)	3:35 - 4:35 PM	Advantages of Using Safe Sanitary Wares
	4:40 - 5:40 PM	Cooking Demo
	10:30 - 11:00 AM	Safety Household Tips on LPG
	11:05 - 12:05 PM	Expanded Senior Citizens Act
14 Oct (Sun)	1:00 - 2:30 PM	Fire Prevention
	2:35 - 3:35 PM	Credit Card Management
	3:40 - 4:40 PM	Cooking Demo
	10:30 - 12:30 PM	How to Start a Business and Financial Management
	1:35 - 2:35 PM	Palit Ilaw
	2:40 - 3:40 PM	E-Negosyo E-Loading Business
	3:45 - 4:45 PM	Handling Your Own Complaints

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4 car theft suspects killed in Taguig

Victims fired at cops after a brief chase on C-5, say task force agents

By DJ Yap

FOUR SUSPECTED CAR thieves were killed in an alleged shootout with the police after midnight yesterday along C-5 Road in Taguig City. Three of

the suspects died on the spot while the fourth died on the way to the hospital.

The gunfight occurred at about 2 a.m. under the Sampaguita Bridge in Barangay Ususan following a brief chase

with the police. Two of the victims, Gona Isao, 45, of Murphy, Quezon City, and Gerald Moster, 31, of Pinagkawitan, Lapa City, Batangas were identified through their drivers' licenses.

The police said Task Force Limbas agents were conducting operations against car thieves when they chanced upon the suspects traveling southbound on C-5 in a Mitsubishi Adventure. Upon checking the car's

plate number (XRS-951) the agents, led by Senior Insp. Julius Bernados, learned the plate number belonged to another vehicle.

Bernados told the Taguig police that his team tried to stop

the vehicle but the suspects suddenly took the U-turn slot and headed north. Upon reaching the bridge, the suspects got off and opened fire at their pursuers, said Chief Insp. Celso Ro-

4 CAR/A20

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Doctor allegedly prevented autopsy on Cris Mendez

By Tina G. Santos

DR. FRANCISCO CRUZ ALLEGEDLY prevented a morgue attendant of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center from conducting an autopsy on suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez.

Clinto Andrade of the Pathology Department of the VMMC told

the National Bureau of Investigation that Cruz asked him to release Mendez's body immediately to the St. Peter Memorial Chapel.

Andrade gave a sworn statement to the NBI Wednesday afternoon, according to lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the bureau's Anti-Terrorism Division which is handling the case.

"Andrade was supposed to assist in the autopsy. But apparently Dr. Cruz said there was no need to do so and to just release the body to the funeral parlor," Asis said, quoting the attendant.

Cruz, an ophthalmologist at the VMMC, brought Mendez to the government hospital on Aug. 27. The victim died on arrival at

the hospital. "Normally, in medico-legal cases such as this, the cadaver should be first subjected to an autopsy before it is embalmed," Asis said. He added that Andrade's testimony was vital to the investigation.

"This would prove that there was an order not to conduct an autopsy on Mendez's body," he said.

But he refused to say what would be the significance of Andrade's revelations to the investigation, except to stress that it would help the medico-legal's work.

An autopsy conducted by the Quezon City police showed that Mendez suffered "traumatic injuries on the upper and lower

extremities" as characterized by bruises on his body, a sign of heavy beating.

The autopsy findings also showed that the victim had "contused lungs" (bruises in the lungs), proof that he was hit hard on the chest or the back.

Asis said they would evaluate Cruz's liability in Mendez's death.

Gun that killed 2 in Pasig City missing

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POLICE HAVE YET TO find the gun that allegedly killed two people on Tuesday following a traffic incident.

But Pasig City police chief Senior Supt. Frank Uyamu said the absence of the murder weapon, a .9 mm gun, would not affect the double murder cases against the suspected shooter, lawyer Manuel Hernandez Jr.

The shooting, allegedly the result of road rage, led to the death of Edgardo Canizares, 49, and Katherine Palmera, 27.

According to reports, Hernandez shot Canizares and Palmera following a heated argument over a traffic incident Tuesday afternoon in Pasig City.

The next day, the victims' relatives filed two counts of murder against Hernandez, who has yet to give his statement to the police.

The murder weapon was not found in Hernandez's possession when he was arrested, and was not in his car either.

Uyamu said they had yet to search Hernandez's house but he expressed doubts that they would find the weapon there.

Museo ng Maynila reopens

By Allison W. Lopez

CITY MAYOR ALFREDO LIM yesterday revived the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission (MHHC) and the Museo ng Maynila that were in "hibernation" for several years.

Wanting to train the spotlight on Manila's rich culture once again, Lim signed Executive Order No. 10, "Constituting the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission," upon his return to office on July 7.

Carmen Guerrero Nakpil was reinstalled as MHHC chair.

The commission that organized art exhibits and historical lectures at the former Army-Navy Club building on South Boulevard, Ermita, became inactive during the previous adminis-

tration. The club building served as Museo ng Maynila and the office of the commission established by Lim in 1997.

Said the mayor, who said he wanted to raise interest in preserving the city's lost heritage: "What we are now, what we are seeing, we owe to our ancestors. Unfortunately these values are now distorted. What seems to be precious before is no longer considered as such."

At yesterday's launch of the commission and the museum, the mayor directed the MHHC, which was in charge of Museo ng Maynila, to document the heritage resources of Manila. He also asked city district councils to identify and protect heritage areas.

The mayor revealed that during his term in 1992-1998

he declined an offer from persons he did not identify to build a high-rise condominium in place of the classic edifice, a city landmark.

The four-story building designed by the team of American architect Daniel Burnham deteriorated when it was turned into a "warehouse for lanterns and lampposts."

Lim vowed yesterday to restore the building to its former glory like the Metropolitan Theater, which is undergoing a major overhaul.

But MHHC Secretariat member Gemma Cruz Araneta said they were still sourcing funds for the numerous repairs needed.

At the moment, only the ground floor of the club is open to visitors.



MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim, Jose Rodriguez, Instituto Cervantes director, and Gemma Cruz-Araneta, member of the Secretariat of the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission share stories at the Museo re-launch.

MODEL ROTONDI

4 car ...

From page A19

driguez of the Taguig police investigation section.

Isao and the two unidentified suspects were killed instantly, while Moser died on the way to the hospital.

Recovered from the suspects were three .45 caliber pistols, two hand grenades, two cellular phones, several spent shells of an M16 rifle, as well as 45 caliber and 9 mm shells.

Businessman posts bail after 1 year in jail

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AFTER SPENDING A YEAR IN A Quezon City jail, a businessman accused of two counts of rape and attempted rape was granted provisional liberty by a regional trial court.

Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 215 Judge Ma. Luisa Quijano-Padilla allowed Dante Baltazar to post a P560,000 bail for his release.

Baltazar, who is into real estate,

property management, boutique chain operations and ready-to-wear manufacturing, was arrested and charged early last year.

Padilla granted the bail when no "vital witness" was presented in court.

The court also said different versions of the incident, as told by some witnesses, considerably weakened the case of the prosecution, prompting the judge to decide to grant bail to Baltazar.

DID YOU KNOW

THE VETERANS Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City was established in 1949 to address health concerns of World War II veterans in the Philippines. The US gave \$22,500 for construction and hospital equipment, while the Philippines set aside 54 hectares of land for the medical center. The VMMC was inaugurated on Nov. 20, 1955 by then President Ramon Magsaysay.

Former Presidents Emilio Aguinaldo, Sergio Osmeña, Ferdinand Marcos and Carlos P. Garcia had been treated in VMMC. Deposed President Joseph Estrada also stayed in the hospital before being transferred to Tanay, Rizal.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Supreme Court stops Navotas from selling fish port

By Lella B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS prevented the Navotas government from selling the Navotas Fishing Port Complex (NFPC) to cover the tax liabilities of the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), saying the property is owned by the State.

The tribunal also said the PFDA should pay real property taxes only on assets that it had leased to private persons, and not the rest of its landholdings that are considered owned by the state.

"Thus, as a rule, petitioner PFDA, being an instrumentality of the national government, is exempt from real property tax but the exemption does not extend to the portions of the NFPC that were leased to taxable or private persons and entities for their beneficial use," it said in an October 2 decision.

It thus directed the PFDA to pay the P62.8 million of the total taxes due as of December 2001 on its properties leased to private parties.

According to the high court, the fishing complex stands on reclaimed property, which is an-

other reason why the land could not be sold by the Navotas government. It cited an earlier ruling where the principle was upheld.

"Additionally, the land on which the NFPC property sits is reclaimed land, which belongs to the State. In Chavez v. Public Estates Authority, the Court declared that reclaimed lands are lands of the public domain and cannot, without Congressional fiat, be subject of a sale, public or private," it added.

The Navotas government earlier set the public auction of the complex to cover the tax li-

abilities of the PFDA.

Navotas had assessed real estate taxes against the PFDA for the period 1981 to 1990 on its properties inside the said fishing complex. When the PFDA failed to make payments, Navotas' municipal treasurer informed the authority that it would sell the complex to cover P23.1 million in unpaid taxes as of June 1990.

Saying the complex is owned by the state, the PFDA filed a case in the Manila regional trial court seeking to stop the auction.

For its part, Navotas contended that the properties within

the fishing port complex are owned by the PFDA. It also pointed out that if the owner of the property is the government, then the complaint should have been filed by the state as represented by the Office of the Solicitor General.

Asked to comment on the decision, Elvin Cruz, a lawyer of the city government, told the Inquirer that they had not received a copy of the ruling.

He, however, added that the city would file a motion for reconsideration as soon as they read the Supreme Court decision.

METROBRIEFS

QC's top taxpayers

QUEZON City has named the top corporate taxpayers from various industries, who have helped maintain the city's reputation as the richest local government unit in the country in the last five years, with a whopping tax collection total of more than P7 billion. Topping the lists of top business and real property taxpayers are the Shoemart Group of Companies and its holding company SM Mega Holdings Incorporated. The top business taxpayers for 2006 include: Shoemart Incorporated; Manila Electric Company; Mercury Drug Corporation; ABS-CBN broadcasting corporation; GMA Network; IBM Philippines; Araneta Group of Companies; Jollibee Food Corporation; Pacific Paints Philippines, the manufacturer of Boysen paints; and Golden Arches Development Corporation, the parent company of the McDonald's fast food chain.

Jeannette I. Andrada

Search on for next 'Bayani ng Kalsada'

TIRE manufacturer Goodyear Philippines Inc. has launched "Bayani ng Kalsada," an annual nationwide search that makes known stories of courage and extraordinary service while paying tribute to the unsung heroes on the road. Now on its second year, the search is open to anyone, including transport associations and car clubs, who wish to nominate a "Tsuper Pinoy," representing drivers of public utility vehicles (jeepneys, bus, taxi, FX), trucks and private cars. Nomination forms are available at Goodyear Servicetech dealers and TyraPro outlets nationwide, various Land Transportation Office branches, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board offices, selected Caltex Stations, as well as at Filtraneur Franchise and Centro Negosyo offices.

Grudge angle eyed in QC police official's death

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

AFTER MAKING AN ASSESSMENT squelching speculations that Quezon City Police District Station 8 commander Supt. Jose Garcia took his life, police said motive for the colonel's death could be "work-related."

"Garcia was a man of conviction," Lino Banaag, QCPC homicide division chief inspector, told the Inquirer, adding that in their profession, he was sure the colonel made not only many friends but enemies as well.

High profile

Garcia's death brought to the surface high-profile cases he handled in the past.

One of these was the case of three men who were found dumped by the sidewalk along Kapunan Avenue off Project 4 in Quezon City on Aug. 10.

Relatives of the slain men—Leonito Bajen Jr., 24; Joel Adique, 24, and Raffy Alondres, 23; all residents of Marikina City—had accused members of

QCPC Station 8, including Garcia, of having a hand in the brutal deaths. The three victims had been detained for questioning at the city police station hours before they were found dead.

Denial

Garcia denied involvement in the incident, citing police records which stated that the men were released "in good physical condition," three hours after they were apprehended.

The police officer's body was found in his Veterans Village House in Quezon City with a lone gunshot wound on the left portion of his chest at around 11:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Banaag, assigned to lead the investigation of Garcia's death, the other day ruled out the possibility of suicide after their findings revealed foot and hand prints outside the colonel's fenced yard.

This led police to believe Garcia could have had unexpected "visitors" on the night he was found dead.

Manila to arrange free live telecast of Pacquiao bout

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim said yesterday he would arrange the free live viewing of boxing champion Manny Pacquiao's bout on Sunday in the city's sports gyms.

Lim directed chief of staff Ric de Guzman to set up immediately giant screens for Pacquiao's "Will to Win" match against Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera, like what his predecessor, Lito Atienza, did.

Although the boxing champion, a friend of the Atienzas, campaigned for the former mayor's son Ali, one of Lim's opponents in the May elections, the incumbent said all of that was "in the past. What we would like to satisfy is the request or appeal of the people."

On April 15, Pacquiao's "Blaze of Glory" fight with Jorge Solis was seen live via



PACQUIAO

sate.ite from the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, in nine sports venues in Manila.

Projectors and LCD screens were used for the no-commercial-break showing for residents who got free tickets.

Lim said they would coordinate with the bout's television promoters to push through with the project. No tickets will be issued, Lim said the event would be strictly on a

first-come, first-served basis.

"They (Manila residents) are entitled to view the fight for free. Service *din yung entertainment eh*," he said.

Whether Pacquiao wins or not, a welcome parade may also be held in Manila if he wishes to have one.

"*Manalo, matalo, basta gusto nila*. They have to make representations with us so we can make arrangements," Lim said.

The mayor also said he would leave the shunting moment to Pacquiao, the "adopted son of Manila," on his return by not joining him in the motorcade around the city.

"*Siya lang ang sasakay sa pickup. Hayaan na natin ang honor sa kanya eh siya naman ang champion*," he said, alluding to a previous victory parade where Pacquiao was joined by several candidates who ran in the last elections.



How can we protect them?

— Jaime Cardinal Sin

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Thousands of S. African miners trapped 2 km underground saved

CARLETONVILLE, SOUTH Africa—Thousands of miners were being painstakingly brought to the surface on Thursday after spending hours trapped more than two kilometers underground at a gold mine in South Africa.

No major injuries were reported after the accident at Elandsrand mine, southwest of Johannesburg, on Wednesday when some 3,200 miners first became stuck underground after a lift cable apparently

snapped at 10 a.m.

Unions warned the incident should serve as a wake-up call to the industry, saying it had highlighted shortcomings in safety.

The exhausted but relieved miners meanwhile recounted how they had kept up their spirits by singing in the mine shaft.

The mine's acting chief executive Graham Briggs told reporters that 825 of the miners had been rescued in batches of 75 by 7 a.m., leaving the

prospect that the rescue mission would not be finished until the afternoon.

As they emerged onto solid ground from a makeshift lift, the miners were handed sandwiches, greeted by relatives and then whisked away for medical examinations but they mostly appeared in good spirits.

"When the light went off, we didn't know what happened. At the beginning we were not so scared but as time went we didn't know how long it would

take," said father-of-two David Mokqosi who has been working at Elandsrand since 1987.

"It's the first time something has happened like that. This should be a lesson to the management. We must have an escape route."

Paramedics were sent down to check on the other miners, who were trapped at level 73 of the mine, some 2,200 meters below the surface.

Those trapped included a number of women, two of



MINERS work underground at the Harmony Goldmine, near Carletonville, South Africa, in this Oct. 27, 2004 photo.

whom were visibly distressed as they came up.

After unions earlier expressed fears the miners faced the danger of suffocating, Harmony spokesperson Ameha

Soares said rescuers would bring them fresh oxygen supplies.

"They will make sure that enough oxygen is sent down so there is no risk," she said. AFP

Japan to start fingerprinting foreigners

TOKYO—JAPAN SAID THURSDAY IT WILL start fingerprinting and photographing for eign visitors from next month under stringent new security measures that have been criticized by civil rights advocates.

The new measures, approved by parliament last year, are expected to take effect from Nov. 20, a justice ministry official said.

All foreigners aged 16 or older will be photographed and electronically fingerprinted when they enter Japan, under a similar system to the one introduced by the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Permanent residents, including ethnic Koreans born in Japan, will be exempt from the law, along with state guests and diplomats.

The information will be stored for potential criminal investigations.

The government says the measures are necessary to tighten security in Japan, which was alarmed by allegations that French Muslim militant Lionel Dumont entered on a forged passport and raised money for extremists.



MUST BE AN ENDURANCE RACE

Emirate jockeys ride their camels at the Nad al-Shaba race course in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Oct. 3.

NEUTERS

Iraq buying \$100M worth of light arms from China

WASHINGTON—IRAQ IS BUYING \$100 million worth of light military equipment for its police from China because the US cannot provide the materiel, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani told the Washington Post's Thursday edition.

"The capacity of the factories here are not enough to provide us quickly with all that we need, even for the Army. One of our demands is to accelerate the delivery of the arms to the Iraqi Army," Talabani said.

According to Talabani, "only one in five Iraqi police officers is armed," the Post reported.

The Post said the deal with China has raised concerns among US military analysts because Iraq's security forces already cannot account for some 190,000 weapons already provided by the United States, including 110,000 AK-47 assault rifles supplied in 2004-2005.

US officials fear some of the arms have made their way into the hands of insurgents.

AFP

Ice Age sabertooth was a pussycat, say scientists

SYDNEY—THE ICE AGE sabertooth, with its large protruding fangs, was actually a bit of a pussycat, according to Australian scientists who studied the power of its bite and hunting skills.

While most people rank the sabertooth alongside the Tyrannosaurus rex dinosaur as a killing machine, in reality today's lions are far more powerful, the study found.

Using the skull of a modern-day lion for comparison, a team of scientists at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) found the sabertooth had a relatively weak bite.

In fact, its bite was about one third as powerful as a lion.

"For all its reputation, Smilodon had a wumpy bite," UNSW paleontologist Steve Wroe said in a statement. Smilodon is the name for the extinct genus of sabertoothed cats.

"It's a bit like a moggy," he said, using the slang for cat.

Scientists from UNSW and

the University of Newcastle used a computer-based technique called Finite Element Analysis to test the bite force and feeding mechanics of the sabertooth, which preyed on giant bison, horse and perhaps mammoths and mastodons.

The team found that under most conditions, the sabertooth's skull performed very poorly compared to that of a lion.

The scientists said this would have seriously limited the big cat to a very specific range of killing behaviors, but it was still a formidable predator.

"Smilodon was an awesome beast and what it lacked in bite force it more than made up for elsewhere," said Wroe.

The sabertooth had an immensely powerful body, perfect for wrestling large prey to the ground, which it did before trying to inflict a killing bite, said the study published in the US Proceedings of the National Academy of Science this week. Reuters



A COMPUTER-generated graphic image of the skull and teeth of a Smilodon, or Ice Aged sabertooth cat.

NEUTERS

Power-sharing talks at standstill—Bhutto

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—FORMER Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the political opposition leader, said Wednesday that talks with Pakistan's president, Gen Pervez Musharraf, over a power-sharing agreement had stalled.

Speaking in London, Bhutto also left open the possibility that her party, the Pakistan Peoples Party, would resign from Parliament before presidential elections on Saturday, the Pakistani news media reported.

Other opposition parties have already done so in an effort to undercut the legitimacy of the vote, by the national and provincial assemblies, which Musharraf is expected to win.

Bhutto made the unexpected announcement to reporters at a

meeting of her party's central executive committee a day after the government announced plans for a law that would give her amnesty from corruption cases.

On Wednesday, Bhutto dismissed that announcement as "disinformation."

The conflicting signals were yet another measure of the unsettled state of politics in Pakistan as Musharraf and Bhutto jockeyed for a share of power.

Both sides have negotiated for months over an agreement that would allow Musharraf to remain president and Bhutto to return to politics in Pakistan, perhaps as prime minister, from exile.

Yet because the prospect of a deal sits badly with many Pakistanis, the government and Bhutto

have reasons to distance themselves publicly from any accord.

Government officials also said that the path of power-sharing negotiations had not been smooth.

"She has used a strong word, 'stalled,'" Tariq Azam Khan, the state minister for information, said Wednesday in a telephone interview. "Talks are still ongoing."

"There are certain issues that need to be resolved, but I cannot go into the details," Khan said. He said the government was not talking about giving Bhutto amnesty but national reconciliation by dropping certain corruption charges. "Most of the corruption cases in the 1990s were made on personal enmity."

Musharraf needs the partici-



BHUTTO

AFP

pation of Bhutto's party in the vote on Saturday so it is not seen as completely illegitimate.

NYT

Bush vetoes health insurance bill for children

WEST HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP, Pa.—President Bush on Wednesday made good on his promise to veto a bill that would have expanded government health insurance for children, but then said he was open to compromising with Congress by spending more money on the program than his budget has proposed.

"I do want Republicans and Democrats to come together to support a bill that focuses on the poor children," Bush said.

He added, "And if they need a little more money to help us meet

the objective of getting help for poorer children, I'm more than willing to sit down with the leaders and find a way to do so."

But Bush did not make a specific offer, and his plan, to spend an additional \$5 billion on the program over the next five years, falls far short of the \$35 billion expansion that passed with bipartisan support in Congress. On Capitol Hill, Democrats and their Republican allies seemed in no mood to compromise; they vowed to overturn the veto before entertaining any deal.

"We've got to do what we can to try to override," said Sen. Charles E. Grassley of Iowa, senior Republican on the finance committee, who was the bill's lead Republican sponsor in the Senate and had personally appealed to the president not to veto the measure.

There are enough votes to override the veto in the Senate, but not in the House. In a somewhat unusual move, House Democrats on Wednesday forced a vote to postpone the override attempt until Oct. 18, giving themselves two weeks to

round up the roughly 20 votes they need. Grassley said he intended to personally appeal to House members who could provide the necessary votes to circumvent the president, and Democrats said they had already picked up a few.

The veto, only the fourth of Bush's presidency, is a politically difficult one for the president, and Bush issued it in private on Wednesday morning, without the fanfare and White House ceremonies he has employed when rejecting embryonic stem cell legislation. NYT

Che Guevara still inspires, four decades after his death



GUEVARA in 1965 in then Congo Leopoldville (Belgian Congo). AFP

HAVANA—FORTY YEARS AFTER the death of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the turbulent life of Cuba's revolutionary hero continues to inspire films and books, while his stoic image and self-sacrifice have become iconic for leftists worldwide.

His legacy remains as vivid today in communist-ruled Cuba as it was, with schoolchildren still instructed to pledge each morning that: "Pioneers for communism, we will be like Che."

A 1960 Alberto Korda photograph of a defiant-looking Guevara, his long, dark hair flying from beneath a beret, is considered one of the best known photos in the world and a classic

image of the 20th century.

On Oct. 8, 1967, the Bolivian Army and two Cuban-American CIA agents captured Che in the village of La Higuera, Bolivia, where he had been leading a clutch of rebels who survived clashes, hunger and illness.

Che was taken to an abandoned school and the following afternoon he was summarily executed by Bolivian sergeant Mario Teran. He was 39.

The Argentine-born Cuban hero will be given anniversary honors in the small city of Santa Clara, Cuba, where he led a key battle of the Cuban Revolution and where a mausoleum has held his remains since 1997.

After years of waning attention, Che's revolutionary mythology was aggressively revived in 1997 with the discovery of his remains amid some controversy, and then their dispatch to Cuba—in the midst of severe economic hardship—by Fidel Castro's government.

The remains were paraded amid great fanfare through Havana streets before being interred in Santa Clara with Fidel Castro looking on.

Some critical analysts said Cuba used the events to distract from economic problems at home. Other more sympathetic observers noted that whatever the motivating factors or timing, the

communist government often spotlights Che's symbolic legacy as self-sacrificing to appeal to Cubans to endure hardship.

The far left in 1960s Europe led the world in latching onto Che internationally. Now that famous Korda image adorns countless T-shirts and backpacks worn by young people and sports stars.

Gandhi he was not—Guevara was a declared supporter of political violence.

After studying medicine in his home country, Che hooked up with Fidel and Raul Castro in Mexico before joining the bearded guerrillas who toppled US-backed leader Fulgencio

Batista and took power in Havana in January 1959.

For six months, Che supervised the repression of counter-revolutionaries, and went on to head the Cuban Central Bank and the Industry Ministry before opting to head overseas again to spread the fight, first in Congo in 1965 (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), and then in Bolivia.

Guevara helped steer revolutionary Cuba into Moscow's orbit but he later broke with the Soviet notion of peaceful coexistence with the West in favor of seeking power militarily, closer to Maoism.

AFP

Airbus shaken by massive insider trading scandal

PARIS—A SERIOUS insider trading scandal erupted around European plane maker Airbus on Wednesday, threatening to overshadow the launch of the group's star product, the superjumbo A380, later this month.

A source said Wednesday that about 20 executives at Airbus parent company European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS) have been accused of massive insider trading in a preliminary report prepared by the French stock market regulator AMF.

The report has been sent to a judge who since November last year has been looking into allegations of illegal share dealing at EADS, the source said.

Airbus, a unit of the EADS, has been rocked by a series of management, production and design difficulties dating back to March 2006,



THEN cochair of EADS Noel Forgeard during a news conference in Paris on Jan. 15.

and deliveries of its A380 have been delayed by 18 months.

The first delivery on Oct. 15 to Singapore Airlines has been seen as the start of a new chapter for the company, given that manufacturing of the giant double-decker plane has been the source of most of Airbus's woes.

French newspaper Le Figaro reported earlier on Wednesday that the AMF document alleged that manage-

ment and shareholders at EADS had engaged in heavy insider trading by selling shares before major problems at Airbus were made public.

Airbus announced delays to deliveries of the A380 on three different occasions—in March, June and October of 2006—which caused a collapse in the value of EADS shares.

Le Figaro claimed the AMF report cited former Airbus chief executive and EADS co-

chief executive Noel Forgeard, who resigned in July last year amid a scandal over the timing of his share dealings and problems with the A380.

Current Airbus chief Thomas Enders and a number of other directors, past and present, were also named by the paper.

Quoting the document, the paper added that a total of 1,200 alleged cases of insider trading on the

shares were detected, but that the regulator decided to move quickly by concentrating on 21 people, including executives at EADS and Airbus as well as major shareholders.

It cited the AMF as describing the selling, which allegedly took place between November 2005 and March 2006, as "simultaneous and massive" in scale. AFP

Australia under fire over refugees

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIA'S TREATMENT of refugees came under fire Thursday in two studies charging that Africans suffered discrimination and asylum seekers were psychologically scarred by being detained for years.

The studies were released a day after Prime Minister John Howard announced that Australia had closed its doors to refugees from Africa until at least July next year.

The government has defended its decision to drastically cut the number of humanitarian slots for Africans by saying they found it

more difficult than others to settle into Australian society.

But an academic study of refugees from war-torn Somalia said it was discrimination and a lack of support that made it hard for Africans to build a new life in Australia, leaving them lonely and isolated.

The mainly Muslim Somalis faced prejudice on religious grounds and in the workplace, as well as language problems, said University of Western Sydney psychology lecturer Renu Narchal.

"It's important that we have an understanding that immigration is a so-

cial experience that encompasses identity challenges and adjustments that often result in a struggle to make a new country feel like home," she said.

Howard has rejected suggestions of racism in the cutback, saying Australia's 13,000-a-year refugee intake was being "rebalanced" from Africa to the Middle East and Asia where the need was more acute.

But refugee groups accused the government of picking on African refugees in the lead-up to elections in an attempt to garner votes after reports of violence and crime among Sudanese groups in some cities. AFP

Wanna cheap iPod? Go to Hong Kong, avoid Brazil

CANBERRA—IN THE MARKET FOR A new video iPod? Head to Hong Kong or, if Europe-bound, stop off in Switzerland. But best avoid Brazil.

One of Australia's biggest banks, the Commonwealth Bank, has used the latest version of Apple's music player—the slimline 4GB Nano—to compare global currencies and purchasing power in 55 countries.

Along the lines of the Big Mac index launched 20 years ago by The Economist magazine, the survey prices the recently launched 4GB Nano in US dollars and found Brazilians pay the most for an iPod, shelling out \$369.61.

That was well above second-placed Bulgaria, where locals and visitors pay \$318.60 for the player, which Apple recently introduced at the same price as the older, less-capable Nano.

"It's not often that you get something for nothing. Even in technology land where there are constant improvements in product quality, it ranked as a big deal," Craig James, chief equities economist at Commonwealth Bank, said.

Hong Kong was the cheapest place to buy a Nano at \$148.12, while the United States was second cheapest at \$149, followed by Japan (\$154.21), Taiwan (\$165.82) and Singapore (\$167.31).

Australia, where the local dollar has surged to 18-year highs, jumped 11 spots into 8th place with the Nano costing \$175.42, cheaper than in Germany (\$211.62), France (\$225.82), South Korea (\$180.60) and even China where the machine is manufactured.

Within the euro zone, the Nano's price also differed, with retailers in Greece offering the cheapest deal.

Purchasing power parity surveys compare the prices of goods in different countries and at their simplest level can help show whether one currency is undervalued against another.

James said the results underscored the falling US currency against almost all others around the world.

"It also highlights the effect of tariffs and taxation in countries. The Brazilians, the Argentinians, are going overseas probably to do their shopping," he explained.

"It's clear from the changes in the Apple iPod range that price deflation is alive and well in the technology space. It is a near-nirvana situation for consumers."

Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
D.Y. Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor General Malvar St., Manila, Manila

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S
FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)**

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
WEPHONE ONLINE, INC. Unit A-21/F, Strata 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Eunsook Cho Korean	Shift Manager
WEPHONE ONLINE, INC. Unit A-21/F, Strata 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Jungmi Lee Korean	Customer Service Manager
NO. 1 ACTIVITY NETWORK SYSTEM (NANS), INC. Unit 22pc Eisenhower Condo, 47 Eisenhower St., San Juan City	Eun Young Oh Korean	Exec. Manager for Human Resources
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB 1410 Laguna Heights Dr. Fidinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Todd Kent Bretzloff American	General Manager
SHARP (PHILS.) CORPORATION Km. 23 West Service Rd., South Superhighway, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kenichi Onishi Japanese	Assistant Vice President for Engineering, Laundry Division
GLOBAL STEEL PHILIPPINES (SPV-AMC), INC. J-2703, 88 Corporate Ctr., 141 Sederio cor. Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Pratap Kumar Machapira Indian	Business Analyst
POKILDO RESTAURANT 1721 Jorge Bocobo St., Makati, Manila	Jeong Soon Choi (two Park) Korean	Chief Cook
FIL. KOR GOLF & BEACH CLUB CORP. 8459 Kalayaan Ave. cor Don Pedro St., Poblacion, Makati City	Min Rini Lee (two Kim) Korean	General Manager
FIL. KOR GOLF & BEACH CLUB CORP. 8459 Kalayaan Ave. cor Don Pedro St., Poblacion, Makati City	Yongil Lee Korean	Manager
EXPITRANS PHILIPPINES INC. 14D Rufino Pacific Tower 6784 Ayala Ave. cor VA Rufino St., Makati City	Aaron Wayne Cree American	International Sales Manager
GAJA MANILA TRAVEL & TOURS INC. Rm. 503 LTC Corp. Center, EDSA Ext. cor P. Calle St., Pasay City	Mi Sun Han Korean	Assistant General Manager
SERAPH MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. 635 Gen. Malvar St., Makati City	Eunsuk Ji Korean	Guests Relation Officer
HONG-BAN-BYUN & COMPANY INC. 706 EDSA, Cubao, Quezon City	Youngsuk Kim Korean	Marketing Agent
SERAPH MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. 635 Gen. Malvar St., Makati, Manila	Miae Park Korean	Guest Relation Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC Regional Director

(PDI: October 5, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Various Philippine Navy Navigational Equipment

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/Opening of Bids	
Supply & Delivery Installation and Commissioning of Six (6) sets Navigational Radar (4 KW)	Php 3,000,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Supply & Delivery Installation and Commissioning of Two (2) sets Navigational Radar (25 KW) with ARPA	Php 3,500,000.00	October 9, 2007 9:00 AM	October 22, 2007 9:00 AM	Php 3,000.00
Supply & Delivery Installation and Commissioning of Two (2) sets Master Gyro Compass w/ Three (3) Repeaters per unit	Php 7,000,000.00			Php 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the Various Philippine Navy Navigational Equipment. Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Mentioned in Para 1. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

5. The Armed Forces of the Philippines will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 9, 2007, 9:00 AM at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 22, 2007, 9:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on October 22, 2007, 9:00 AM at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Contact Person: COR GLICERIO P. VILLANUEVA PN
Tel No: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel No: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) ADRIANO V. MUNAR JR.
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PNBAC

(PDI—October 5, 2007)

BCDA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Republic of the Philippines CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE 2007-2008 COMMUNICATION & DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY

1. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through its 2007 Budget, intends to apply the sum of Six Million Pesos (P6,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Consulting Services for the 2007-2008 Communication & Development Advocacy. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

2. BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the Consulting Services for the 2007-2008 Communication & Development Advocacy. Issuance of the Eligibility Documents will be on October 11-18, 2007. Eligibility Documents may be purchased by the interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash, cashier's check or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

3. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs either delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below on or before October 18, 2007 at the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 37th St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Pre-eligibility conference will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. The Opening of Eligibility Documents shall follow at 11:30 a.m. Only those that are shortlisted will be invited to submit Bids.

4. The BAC shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The shortlist of prospective bidders shall consist of at most three (3) bidders. The criteria and rating system for shortlisting are:

- The Consultant must be a reputable public relations consulting firm with at least three (3) years business operation. In the case of joint ventures, each firm should have at least three (3) years business operation.
- The key personnel of the Consultant must have at least three (3) years experience in public relations, media handling and crisis management.
- The Consultant must have handled three (3) similar public relations projects involving major clientele.
- Consultants shall be assessed based on the most favorable compliance of the criteria stated above.

5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The BCDA shall evaluate bids using the Quality Based Evaluation (QBE) procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

7. Bases Conversion and Development Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability.

8. The contract shall be completed within one (1) year upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

(Sgd.) AILEEN AN. R. ZOSA
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Consultancy

Roy Victor R. Rosales or Lorna A. Enriquez
TWG/Secretariat for BAC for Consultancy
BCDA Corporate Center
2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center
37th St., Crescent Park West
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(PDI: October 5, 2007)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

N. Korea to disable all nuke facilities

WASHINGTON—NORTH KOREA HAS AGREED TO disable all of its nuclear facilities by the end of the year, in a move that the Bush administration hailed as a diplomatic victory that could serve as a model for how to deal with Iran, which has defied US efforts to rein in its nuclear ambitions.

The North Korea agreement, announced in Beijing on Wednesday, sets out the first specific timetable for the North to disclose all its nuclear programs and disable all facilities in return for 950,000 metric tons of fuel oil or its equivalent in economic aid.

The accord is the second stage of a six-nation pact reached in February that critics say rewards North Korea for its test of a nuclear device last October. The agreement has not yet resolved the question of when North Korea will give up its nuclear weapons.

The agreement calls on the United States to "begin the process of removing" North Korea from a US ter-

rorism list "in parallel" with the North's actions. Conservative critics said the United States should not take North Korea off the terrorism list until it gives up all its nuclear weapons, and argued that the pact was far too conciliatory toward a nuclear power suspected of having ties to international terrorism.

John R. Bolton, the administration's former ambassador to the United Nations, said the White House violated the original purpose of the diplomatic talks by agreeing to negotiate side agreements with North Korea about taking it off both the terrorism list and another list of "enemy" nations forbidden from trading with the United States.

"If they come off either or both lists, without any final verification of their performance on the nuclear issue, I think the president will have embarrassed his administration in history," Bolton said.

Critics of the White House, including some Democrats, note that the February accord resembles a 1994 agreement between North Korea and the Clinton administration, which Bush administration officials had denounced as a give-away and which collapsed in 2002.

Conservatives are also angry that the United States proceeded with the agreement despite a recent Israeli air strike in Syria that Israeli officials have said was directed at nuclear material supplied by North Korea. During meetings this past weekend, Christopher R. Hill, the chief US negotiator, told North Korea that one of the things it must disclose were details of whatever nuclear material it had been supplying to Syria, two senior Bush administration officials said. **NYT**



SOUTH Korean President Roh Moo-hyun (left) and North Korean Leader Kim Jong-il chat during a luncheon hosted by Kim for the two Koreas Summit in Pyongyang on Oct. 4. **APF**

After nuclear deal, Koreas seek formal end to war

SEOUL—LEADERS OF THE TWO KOREAS agreed on Thursday to try to bring peace to the Cold War's last frontier, just a day after the North signed up to an international deal to disable its nuclear facilities.

But some analysts said the pledges at only the second summit between North and South Korea were limited, with the hermit North clearly reluctant to break much new ground.

"North and South Korea shared the view they must end the current armistice and build a permanent peace regime," President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il said in a joint statement at the end of their three-day meeting in Pyongyang.

They will push for talks next month with China and the United States to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War which technically is still going on because a peace treaty has yet to be signed.

The two leaders also agreed to set up the first regular freight train service for half a century, linking two countries divided by a heavily fortified border.

There will also be meetings of ministers and defense officials and the establishment of a cooperation zone around a contested sea border on the west of the Korean peninsula.

The summit ended just a day after North Korea agreed to disable the three main nuclear facilities at its Yongbyon site—and a source of material for atomic weapons—and provide a full declaration of all its nuclear programs by the end of the year.

South Korea's Roh went to the summit declaring it would make the peninsula safer and help the North's shattered economy, but many analysts were doubtful he would be able to win concessions from the reclusive Kim Jong-il.

"I expected much stronger results such as large-scale aid or support for North Korea. The results are more moderate than I had expected," said Kim Young-yoon, an analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

"South Korea very aggressively proposed many projects and businesses but on the other hand North Korea seems to have been passive and not willing to accept all of them."

The summit got off to a cool start when Kim Jong-il gave what looked to be a surly welcome to Roh on his arrival in Pyongyang, and the two men appeared together on only a few occasions.

South Korean officials say relations can improve only gradually and that a collapse of the North would be so catastrophic for wealthy South Korea that they were prepared to pump billions of dollars into their neighbor's economy.

"This is an event that will open a new horizon between North and South Korea," presidential spokesperson Kim Jeong-suob told reporters in Seoul of the summit between the two states, which have grown apart in their 60 years of division.

While the communist North has plunged into poverty and maverick isolation, its southern neighbor has mushroomed into the world's 13th most powerful economy and a global leader in a number of industries.

"A virtuous circle," said South Korea's Prime Minister Han Duck-soo of the combination of the summit and a nuclear deal.

Reuters



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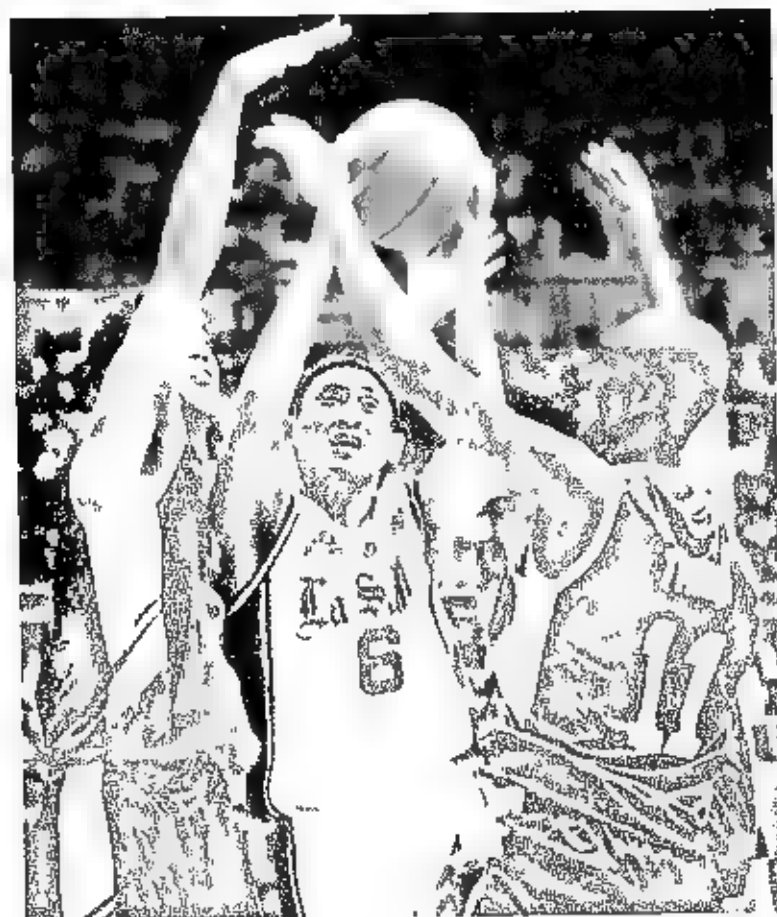
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Archers end UE Warriors' victory streak



LA SALLE spitfire JV Casio is trapped by a UE double team of Kevin Gregorio (left) and Hans Thiele in the fourth quarter of last night's UAAP Finals Game 1 at the Araneta Coliseum.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

La Salle a win away from UAAP crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST STREAKED TO A phenomenal 14 straight victories this season. La Salle needed just one foul shot to end that magical run.

Rico Maerhofer converted one of two free throws with 14.1 seconds left and the Green Archers dealt the Warriors their first loss in heartbreaking fashion, 64-63, yesterday to claim Game 1 of the UAAP Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

An air-tight defense in the closing seconds completed the victory that pushed the Archers within a win of claiming their seventh men's basketball crown.

Running into traffic at the paint as he drove to the basket, Marcy Arellano lobbed a pass to Mark Borboran, who missed a three-pointer in the dwindling seconds.

The Warriors had one last-gasp attempt to keep their streak going, but Arellano missed a tip-in at the buzzer.

"We made a stop when it counted the most," said coach Franz Pumaren, after his Archers gained an upperhand over his younger brother Dindo's Warriors in the best-of-three series.

"But there was a little lapse. We gave Borboran an open look at the basket. We were just fortunate that the shot didn't go in. It was really straight, it just rattled out. It was really meant for us. That shot will go in 60-70 percent."

Borboran was indeed the Warriors' best option to take the shot after the veteran forward had buried a triple with 34.8 seconds left to knot the contest at 63-all.

TY Tang missed a three-pointer on the next possession, but Maerhofer grabbed the rebound and drew a foul from Borboran.

Maerhofer missed his first charity, before nailing his second pressure-packed free throw.

"One rebound saved us," said Franz, whose wards got pummeled at the paint as the Warriors collared 29 more boards than the Archers to win the rebounding battle, 60-31.

The Archers held the Warriors,

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Barrera talks big, makes Pacquiao lose in presscon

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—BOXING PRESS CONFERENCES NORMALLY END up in a draw, with both main combatants scoring enough colorful points to sell the event.

There was a mismatch in yesterday's media hype session for the Manny Pacquiao-Marco Antonio Barrera rematch on Oct. 6 at the Mandalay Resort and Casino here.

Barrera, the awful underdog, outpointed and beat the highly favored Pacquiao.

This visibly helped shore up the terrible odds that had mutually favored Pacquiao to win by an almost 4-1 difference.

The new Sportsbook posting has Pacquiao now only a minus-260 favorite, down from the previous minus-350. This means you now have to bet \$260 on the Pacman in order to win \$100.

In yesterday's press conference at the Blues Room in Mandalay Bay, the Barrera camp declared their fighter has at least four new different plots against Pacquiao.

The Pacman, for his part, didn't mention if he has at least one new plan.

Barrera claimed Pacquiao will see the real Baby-Faced Assassin come fight night Saturday (Sunday morning in the Philippines).

Pacquiao could only smile and nod meekly.

Barrera insisted he would end up the sure victor.

Pacquiao said all he could do is promise to fight his best.

The top protagonists in the "Will to Win" card came dressed as though they were attending two separate affairs, not the briefing and presentation for the press.

Barrera walked in wearing a sleek black suit with red tie, like an office executive.

Pacquiao came in red training attire, as though he had rushed out of a workout.

In his turn at the podium, Barrera spoke in impeccable English, detailing a short but well-prepared speech.

"I'm nervous," Pacquiao said, sighing, before thanking everybody, the promoters, the fans, the Filipino people and, finally, his lovely wife.



MANNY Pacquiao (left) and Marco Antonio Barrera strike a fighting pose at a news conference Wednesday at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

As in past fight conferences here, he tried to speak in English. He was not very successful this time out, stammering repeatedly and mixing syntax.

After the formal press confab, Barrera moved out of the well-lit stage and continued to score big points on the fringes.

Wasn't Señor Barrera already late for his regular workout?

"No training today," a Barrera assistant in red jacket and jogging pants said.

"Why?"

"We're done, no more training."

"You mean until fight day?"

"Yes, we've already done everything."

Pacquiao had to leave ahead for the IBA gym, some four miles off The Strip, for his tapering drills, a follow-up to his morning run.

No weight problem, the Barrera team proudly bared, not in a single fight in 17 years.

Pacquiao admitted he had to start drastically cutting down on food intake for the official weigh-in, then just stay in the room to conserve energy, plot and prepare for the big event.

Barrera, in a succeeding inter-

view with a petite Filipino television reporter, bared the theme of what he had vowed would be his last and final fight.

"They will see the real Marco Barrera on Saturday night," he remarked with firmness and dignity.

He repeated what he had been claiming that he had had major distractions while training for the first fight against Pacquiao in 2003 wherein he could total only 50 rounds of sparring.

Barrera supposedly trained over three months and sparred for over 150 rounds this time.

This must be the plus factors that led him to declare on Wednesday, during the boxers' workout before the media, that the Philippines would be in for a great shock.

Barrera also went on to claim he had been through hell, and made great sacrifices, to make sure he scores a big revenge against Pacquiao.

Pacquiao, silent through all the loud pre-fight verbal exchanges, could only counter meekly and say that he, too, made great sacrifices, so what's the big deal?

In fact, this included allowing



Latest odds from Mandalay Bay

LAS VEGAS—THERE WERE frantic efforts by bettors to locate the official list of odds from the Mandalay Bay's Sports Book here Wednesday as only the odds in the upcoming Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Ricky Hatton fight were posted on the electronic boards.

Fortunately, the list was released after the fight's press conference, also Wednesday.

Here are the latest odds:

Manny Pacquiao—minus 260
Marco Antonio Barrera—plus 220
*—For Pacquiao, a \$200 bet wins \$100; For Barrera, a wager of \$100 wins \$220.

Will Go 12 Rounds—plus 120
Won't Go 12 Rounds—minus 140

Pacquiao by Knockout—Even
Pacquiao by Decision—2/1
Barrera by Knockout—6/1
Barrera by Decision—7/2
12 Round Draw—12/1

Pacquiao by KO, Round 1—15/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 2—18/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 3—18/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 4—15/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 5—15/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 6—15/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 7—12/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 8—12/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 9—10/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 10—10/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 11—8/1
Pacquiao by KO, Round 12—8/1

Barrera by KO, Round 1—40/1
Barrera by KO, Round 2—40/1
Barrera by KO, Round 3—40/1
Barrera by KO, Round 4—35/1
Barrera by KO, Round 5—35/1
Barrera by KO, Round 6—35/1
Barrera by KO, Round 7—30/1
Barrera by KO, Round 8—30/1
Barrera by KO, Round 9—25/1
Barrera by KO, Round 10—25/1
Barrera by KO, Round 11—20/1
Barrera by KO, Round 12—20/1

Salvati L. Lagumbay, Contributor

himself to be badly outscored, out-talked in the wordy, noisy phase of the great confrontation.

Pacquiao had earlier maintained that the better fighter would be declared only on fight night, inside the ring.

He did not even see it fit to make a similar declaration in yesterday's press conference, where meekness appeared to be his best defense against noisy tirades.

Sugar Ray favors, warns Pacman

LAS VEGAS—THE GREAT SUGAR RAY Leonard said he would not be surprised if Manny Pacquiao, whom he admires, wins inside six rounds.

"He's a tremendous puncher, with great speed and boundless stamina," said Leonard, who was part of the main cast in yesterday's press conference.

He said he's amazed at Pacquiao's work ethic that includes endless labors resulting in undiminished power until the final bell.

But, hey, better watch out, Leonard warned, his famous marble eyes lighting up. Slower but sharper could also make a world of difference, he tried to explain.

"One big shot could turn a fight around, just one big shot," he said slowly and clearly.

Sugar Ray, of course, knew whereof he spoke. He was obviously referring to that classic light heavyweight fight of his against Danny Lelonde in 1988.

Leonard, bloodied and beaten, was hopelessly behind on points. Everything had turned sour for the sleek, sweet-punching Sugar. Everybody had given up on him.

But, in a rare, magical moment close to the end, he saw a rare opening.

Sugar Ray's dull, lightless eyes suddenly widened, cleared and brightened.

He summoned all the pent-up power and, in one great heave, snapped a spear of a right that landed with the deadly snap of a baseball bat on Lelonde's uncovered face.

The victim tipped over like a log.

The referee, as could only be expected, no longer saw it fit to proceed with the required knockout toll.

Not that Sugar Ray hoped this would happen in the Pacquiao-Barrera encounter on Saturday here.

He admired Pacquiao so much he could only wish the best things for him.

"But he must remain focused," Leonard, in a fatigue shirt, carrying a blue back-pack like an ordinary stranger, continued. "The thing for Pacquiao is to follow his fight plan, no matter what. For-

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

get about television, don't mind the crowd, do your job."

No, he didn't come exactly to offer advice. He was part of a subsidiary promotion that was tied up with the Pacquiao-Barrera card.

Of course, Leonard did not hide the fact that he, too, has become interested about the Philippines because of Pacquiao.

"I really want to go there," he said as Filipino fans, one after another, clawed for a picture with him.

It came to a point when the over-excited fans were already climbing on his back.

"You mean only 12 hours, one plane ride to the Philippines," Sugar Ray wondered smiling.

"Just one plane ride."

"What about the weather?"

"Tropical, wet and dry."

"You mean there's no winter?"

"No, only sun and rain."

Anyway, Sugar Ray had to be warned, in return, that he might not find time to enjoy his projected trip to the Philippines.

"Look at these fans now all monkeying on your back?"

"What about?" he asked again.

"There would be millions of them all over there."

"No problem, I'd love it that way, but did you say there's no winter out there?"

"No, but we've the finest summers in the world."

"What do you mean?"

"We have the greatest sea resorts, corals, unforgettable days in the sun, endless white-sand beaches, some smooth as talcum powder."

"Oh, shucks. Forget it."

End of conversation.

Watch the fight, help the blind

TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILDHOOD blindness, the Rotary Club of Quezon City, Inner Club of Quezon City and the UP University Student Council will show the Pac-

quiao-Barrera fight live on Sunday from 10 a.m. at the UP Theater in UP Diliman in Quezon City.

Tickets at P200 are available at Chocolate Kiss Cafe, Ang Bahay ng Alumnus, UP Student Council Office, UP Cooperative, Nokia Store Greenhills and at the UP Theater (on fight day).

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VENUS Williams stretches for a return against Alicia Molik.

Venus spins into Japan Open s'finals; Hewitt gains ground

TOKYO—TOP-SEEDED VENUS WILLIAMS overcame some early errors Thursday to defeat Alicia Molik and advance to the semifinals of the Japan Open.

Williams downed Molik 7-6 (4), 6-3 to set up a semifinal showdown with Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, who defeated Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (3).

"I was having some problems with my errors which was frustrating," said Williams. "She played well and had the skills to win the match."

Williams, No. 8 in the WTA rankings, struggled with her serve in the first set,

double faulting five times, but took control midway through the second set as Molik made some costly errors of her own.

"There were times when I was good and times when I wasn't," said Williams. "Now I just have to focus on the semifinals."

Williams went ahead 4-3 when Molik double faulted in the seventh game of the second set and then held serve to go up 5-3.

She won the match with a crosscourt forehand off Molik's serve.

Williams is playing in the \$175,000 (euro123,000) tournament for the first time

and is bidding for her fourth title of the season. She won the Korea Open on Sunday.

In the \$832,000 (euro585,000) men's tournament, Croatia's Ivo Karlovic, seeded seventh, ground out a 7-6 (6), 6-7 (8), 7-6 (8) win over ninth-seeded Lee Hyung-taik of South Korea to advance to the quarterfinals.

Australian Lleyton Hewitt, seeded fourth, downed Spain's Ivan Navarro 7-5, 6-3.

Fernando Verdasco of Spain defeated Sweden's Thomas Johansson 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-3.

Diamondbacks prevail; Rockies, Red Sox triumph

PHOENIX—THE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS opened the National League Divisional Series playoffs with a 3-1 win over the Chicago Cubs on Wednesday.

In the other playoff openers, the Colorado Rockies hung on to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-2 in the first game of their series, while the Boston Red Sox drew first blood in the American League series with a 4-0 win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Brandon Webb pitched seven strong innings for the D-Backs, allowing four hits with nine strikeouts and three walks in his post-season debut, while Stephen Drew and Mark Reynolds both homered for Arizona.

"This is fun now," Drew told reporters after the game.

"Nobody expected us to be here," Carlos Zambrano was pulled after six innings and just 85 pitches for the Cubs, with reliever Carlos Marmol allowing the game-winning homer to Reynolds in the seventh and a second run in the same inning.

Arizona made the most of just six hits in the game, while the Cubs managed just four off Webb and two relievers.

Game two in the series is on Thursday.

In Philadelphia, southpaw Jeff Francis got the win for the Rockies, yielding two runs and four hits over six innings while striking out eight.

"I came in just wanting to execute the pitches I wanted to do," Francis said. "Going with fastballs and down away and mixing up speeds. That's what I've done all year and that's what I tried to do today." Matt Holliday homered for the Rockies, who won for the 15th time in their last 16 games and are making just their second post-season appearance in their 15-year history.

In Boston, Josh Beckett retired 19 consecutive batters after a leadoff single and wound up with eight strikeouts and no walks to run his post-season scoreless streak to 18 innings.

Beckett, the 2003 World Series MVP, also pitched a complete-game shutout to clinch that series in Game 6 over the New York Yankees.

"He attacked the strike zone with all of his pitches," said Red Sox manager Terry Francona. "He got in a groove."

Reuters



PSC rejects Cojuangco nutritionists

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY USED TO FIGHT OVER MANY things, but this time the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee are at loggerheads over food.

Acting on the recommendation of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, the PSC has junked the deal initiated by the POC to hire two sports nutritionists from the United States to take care of the RP athletes.

The PCSM believed that the athletes are being fed adequately enough to compete even in the world stage.

But the decision didn't sit well with POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who arranged for the arrival of sports nutritionists Bryan Shamp and Aaron Lloyd Parnell last week.

"There is a need for us to focus on the nutrition of our athletes and make sure they get what they really needed based on the demands of their sports disciplines," said Cojuangco yesterday.

He said the two California-based consultants were to plane in Sept. 28 for a weeklong study on athletes based at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, PhilSports and Baguio City.

But Cojuangco said the PSC later told him the PCSM had deemed the US food consultants unnecessary.

The PCSM chief, Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, refused comment although he said that the plan to put up a cafeteria—supposedly with a nutritionist for each site—at the different venues and billeting areas is close to completion.

Sources at the PCSM said the Filipino athletes already have a diet expert in Sanny Rose Orbeta.

Cojuangco admitted that he was embarrassed by the recent development as the nutritionists, whom he said were recommended by a millionaire friend from San Francisco, had already cleared their schedule for the RP trip.

Ochoa shoots for money earnings milestone

DANVILLE, CALIFORNIA—LORENA Ochoa needed a quick translation: One of her colleagues on the US women's golf tour had described the Mexican as mystical.

"Thank you," Ochoa said Wednesday with a grin. "It's a good thing, right?"

A compliment, indeed, for the world's No. 1 ranked player, who this week could become the first woman ever to earn \$3 million (euro2.11 million) in a single season. She needs to finish sixth or better in the Longs Drug Challenge to do it, entering the first round Thursday with \$2,966,454 (euro2,089,788) in prize money in 2007.

Reaching that milestone would help

Ochoa forget another mark she had been shooting for before falling short in her previous tournament.

Ochoa was trying to become the first with four straight tour victories since Annika Sorenstam did it in 2004-05. Sorenstam and Nancy Lopez hold the record with five wins in a row in events in which they played.

Not that Ochoa is dwelling on that close finish behind Maria Hjorth and Stacy Prammanasudh in the inaugural Navistar LPGA Classic last weekend in Prattville, Ala.

"I do get really mad and disappointed, but I just kind of move on and leave things behind and put them in the trash

and I keep going," Ochoa said after completing her round of the Pro-Am at Blackhawk Country Club. "I think that's something that really helps me."

Defending champion Karrie Webb is expected to challenge Ochoa among a talented 108-player field that is missing 2006 runner-up Sorenstam. Webb beat Sorenstam by one stroke in this event last year, finishing 15 under par.

"I think we've got as tough a competitor in Lorena," Webb said. "She's playing similar consistently very good golf as Annika has done in the past. So I wouldn't be surprised to see Lorena's name up on the leaderboard this week."



LORENA Ochoa eyes paydirt again.



HURT: France's Audrey Sauret-Gillespie lies bleeding after a rough tackle by a Serbian during the Women European Basketball Championships at Ortona's Arena, Oct. 3.

Lakers' Brown confirms arrest for disorderly conduct

HONOLULU, HAWAII—KWAME BROWN OF the Los Angeles Lakers confirmed Wednesday that he was arrested in Georgia at the weekend for disorderly conduct. Brown was arrested during an early Saturday morning traffic stop in Valdosta, Georgia. A police report said Charles Warren Jr. was stopped for driving down the

wrong way on a one-way street. The arresting police officer noticed the smell of alcohol and questioned Warren. Brown came up to the car and said the vehicle was his. The police deemed Brown's presence as disruptive and arrested the 25-year-old on disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer.

Cebu's Alta Vista paces SL Tour over Palos bets

BANGKOK, THAILAND—ALTA Vista of Cebu assumed temporary overall team leadership after the first 18 holes of the Sta. Lucia Tour at the Lakewood and Lam Lukka courses here on Wednesday.

The Cebuanos rode the big efforts of Roy Damole and Rolando Alberto in Division 2 and Alan John Larox and Doli Cabahug in Division 3 as they braced themselves for a final-day showdown with Rancho Palos Verdes of Davao.

Damole-Alberto emerged the frontrunners in Division 2 with 87 points while the Larox-Cabahug pair stood five points behind in third place in Division 3 to lift Alta Vista atop the standings ahead of the seven other clubs competing in this first-ever out-of-the-country edition of the Sta. Lucia Tour.

Timothy John Brodeth and Vincent Brodeth posted a frontrunning 85 points to lead Division 3 while teammates Tibor Marcelino and Jesse Tan were in second place after logging 95 points in Division 1 as the Davaoenos likewise gave themselves a shot at the

overall diadem with 40 points.

The tourney is organized by Sta. Lucia Tour for the eight premium clubs all over the country.

Orchard was a far third with 28 points mainly because of the runner-up showing of Ikuro Nishino-Eric Lingad in Division 3 while Eagle Ridge had 27 points. Lakewood of Cabanatuan came next with 21 followed by Summit Point with 12 and Royale Tagaytay (4).

Eagle actually had a couple of top two scores—the leading 98 of Larry Agula and Koo Jae Min in Division 1 and the second-placed Kang Buk Sum of Eagle Ridge; Vincent Brodeth was on top in Class D while Alta Vista beats Vincent Bejar and Doli Cabahug paced Class B and Class C, respectively.

SPORTSWATCH

Nat'l age-group t'kwondo
tournament kicks off tomorrow

ABOUT 1,000 YOUNG TAEKWONDO practitioners test their mettle on Oct. 6-7 when they compete in the 2007 Smart/Petron national age-group championships at the Rizal Coliseum.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the event will feature mid-junior men and women aged 13-14 and boys and girls 12 years old and below.

Organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong said the tourney is part of the PTA's grassroots development program.

"We start them young. Even at 4, they already get the chance to participate and show their wares," said Hong. Competition starts at 9 a.m.

PBA chair Chua, Barrios,
Pumarens Scoop guests

PBA CHAIR TONY CHUA, COMMISSIONER Sonny Barrios and the Pumarens coaching clan, Pilo, Derek, Franz and Dindo, are the featured guests in today's Scoop Forum at the Kamayan Restaurant on Padre Faura.

Also appearing in the weekly session sponsored by Accel and aired live over dzSR Sports Radio 91.7 are Fil-American pagebella Vicky Brick, RP women's basketball coach Fritz Gaston and members of the UAAP women's cage champion Alano.

MX races in Taguig Sunday

THE "ON ANY SUNDAY MOTOCROSS SERIES" resumes this Sunday and on Oct. 21 and 28 and Nov. 11 at the Fast Track Circuit in Taguig City with the country's top riders expected to vie for top honors.

The series, sanctioned by motorcycle racing's governing body Namssa, will also serve as a tune-up event for national riders seeing action in competitions in China, Guam and the United States late this year.

The winners in Round 1—Open Enduro: 1. Joselito Mendoza, Beginner Production; 1. Arnel Lacnit, Novice Open Production; 1. Jensen Manuel, Executive; 1. Jun San Andres; 55cc: 1. Jerick Mitra Jr.; 50cc: 1. Moymoy Flores; 85cc: 1. Jensen Manuel, Underbone; 1. Jason Sarmiento. Open Class: 1. Kenneth San Andres.

Help these young chessers

THE CHESS COMMUNITIES IN METRO Manila and nearby provinces are passing the hat around to help in the hospitalization of two children of veteran player Alfredo V. Chay who were seriously injured in a traffic accident Sunday night in Malolos, Bulacan.

Chessander Chay, 16, and his sister, Chessandra, 13, were hit by a van near a bus stop. They had just come from a non-masters tournament organized by Plandel Chess Club at the Bulacan State University.

Both were rushed to the Malolos City Hospital, according to Grandmaster Eugene Torre, who is helping raise cash for the Chay siblings. Chessander has been declared out of danger but his sister is still under close observation because of a fractured skull. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Pasay 5-stag derby today

A BIG GROUP OF LEADING DERBY B DERS from the Calabarzon area collides in the LB Candelaria 5-Stag Derby which gets going at the Pasay City Cockpit with 90 fights.

Backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the one-day stagfest dangles a guaranteed prize of P1 million, said pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

The list of combatants includes 2004 World Slaughter Cup champion Honey Yu, Noel Zoleta, Totoy Magbuhos, Jun Marasigan, Gaddy Tan, Louie Cua, Ramon Manzanera, Roger Segismundo, 2006 Bakbakan champ Gengen Arayata, Pepito Ngo, Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud, Osang dela Cruz and Sam Mendoza.

58 fights in Cainta stagfest

CASH PRIZES AND PRODUCT GIVEAWAYS await participants and cockfight fans in the "Boom Tarat Tarat" 3-stag derby today at Cainta Fair Center Coliseum. The first of 58 fights starts at 5 p.m.

To be hosted by Kalye Onsa group, this stagfest is one of the big derbies of the year at the venue, according to promoter Ronnie Lacina. Last month, CFCC presented the "Stagwars" 5-stag derby which drew more than 300 entries.

The Mangzee Farms 4-Stag Derby is set Sunday with Bobby del Rosario as host.

Place 1—(Or/Tr)
—My Sheikh
(5), 1 Remain
(7), Smashing
Success (4),
Naughty (3)

Place 2—(Or/Tr)—Splendor (5), Kaima (4), Magical
Street (2), Sports Illustrated (5)

Place 3—(Penta/Or/Tr)—Don Enrico (8), Speed
Machina (4), Think Tank (7), Carry Over (6), Red
Scooter (3)

Place 4—(Or/Tr)—Pride and Joy (1), Miss Lilyilly
(2), Hello Joannita (3), Body Shot (4)

Place 5—(Penta/Or/Tr)—Pamintan/Ansan (2),
Odyssey (6), Virgin Island (7), Macaleon (1),
Ocean Cookie (8)

Place 6—(Or/Tr)—Royal Lady Jane (5), Rapid Fire
(6), Royal Fleet (7), Big Spender (4)

Place 7—(Or/Tr)—Real Triumph/Unleashed (7),
Amazing Race (5), Speed Bullet (2), Crew Cut (8)

Place 8—(Or/Tr)—Pela (6), Easy Lover (1), Sword
Of War (2), Kagaro (7)

Place 9—(Super 6/Or/Tr)—Hoburn (9), Do Re Min
(8), Lashawespa (7), Tibeca (1), El Cid (2),
Pura Energ (5)

BY TOP CHOICE

RP Nomura Cuppers move up to seventh

MARK FERNANDO MATCHED PAR 72 FOR the first time in three days yesterday and Jonel Ababa rebounded with a 75 to shove the Philippines to seventh place with 18 holes left in the 23rd Nomura Cup Golf Championship in Taipei.

The Philippines totaled a third round 227, counting Tonlits Asistio's 80, although its 692 aggregate was way behind the pace-setting 661s of Australia and South Korea.

"The team is gaining from this experience, especially Fernando and Ababa, who will be called on for

national duty again in the future," said non-playing Caloy Coscoluella in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"It is truly heart-rending to see our players play the way they are playing. The conditions are ultra tough. I can't ask for players with bigger hearts."

Fernando, a product of the National Caddies' Open program like Ababa, had three birdies and the same number of bogeys after three-putting once and missing two greens on another brutally windy day at the Sunrise Golf and Country Club.

He now has a 225 total, just seven shots off joint

leaders Chen Ming-chuan of Taiwan who shot a 68 and tied Rohan Blizzard of Australia at 218.

Kim Bi-o of Korea, the 17-year-old prodigy who is his country's top amateur, was third, another stroke back, after assembling a 70.

The 22-year-old Ababa ballooned to an 80 on Wednesday after opening up with a 75.

The battle for top team honors has heated up with host Taiwan just six shots off the Aussies and the Koreans with Thailand another two strokes back with a 667 aggregate in fourth. *Musong R. Castillo*

Pabila, Tacuyan
sustain fiery
ring show

By Dennis U. Eroa, Inquirer Libre

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—GIANT-KILLERS ALBERT PABILA and Orlando Tacuyan Jr. sustained their fiery forms Wednesday night as they battered separate foes to reach the semifinals of the 2007 Smart National Open Boxing Championships here.

Pabila, who ousted light flyweight top favorite Harry Tañamor a day earlier, taught Frederick de la Cruz of Davao City a neat lesson en route to a second-round RSC-O (referee stopped contest, outscored) victory.

Tacuyan, a featherweight, also assured himself of a bronze medal after scoring the day's shortest win over Rey Enoc of Baguio City. The pride of Angeles City mauled Enoc right from the opening buzzer, forcing the referee to stop the contest with barely 45 seconds gone in the fight.

"Kayang-kaya ang kalaban, walang problema (It was an easy fight)," said the 19-year-old son of a policewoman.

The 5-foot-9 Tacuyan, who eliminat-

ed Asian Games gold medalist Joan Tipon in a stunning first-round win, said he has to take all his rivals seriously because they are all capable of an upset.

Flyweight Violito Payia of the Philippine Army evaded the upset ax, posting another RSC win, this time over Cebu City's Rhinel Mandate.

But Pabila's teammate Lyhven Salazar, a senior member of the training pool, lost miserably on points to Rey Saludar of Davao Del Norte-A, 36-48, in the 51-kg class.

"I am determined to win the gold," said Payia, another Asian gold medalist and one of the seven members of the national team competing in the AIBA World Boxing Championships slated

Oct. 18 to Nov. 3 in Chicago, Illinois. "The quality of opposition is improving yearly, but I'm ready."

Payia and Saudar advanced to the semifinals along with Hopewell Galupo of Malaybalay, Bukidnon-A and Joemel Bilbar of Talisay, Negros Occidental who both won on points over their rivals.

Galupo defeated Philippine Navy/Bago City's Elman Vicera, 23-14, while Bilbar prevailed over Malaybalay's Fred Rodriguez, 23-20.

Also making it to the semifinals of the featherweight class were Davao Del Norte's Charly Suarez, Argie Laput and Vergil Basadre.

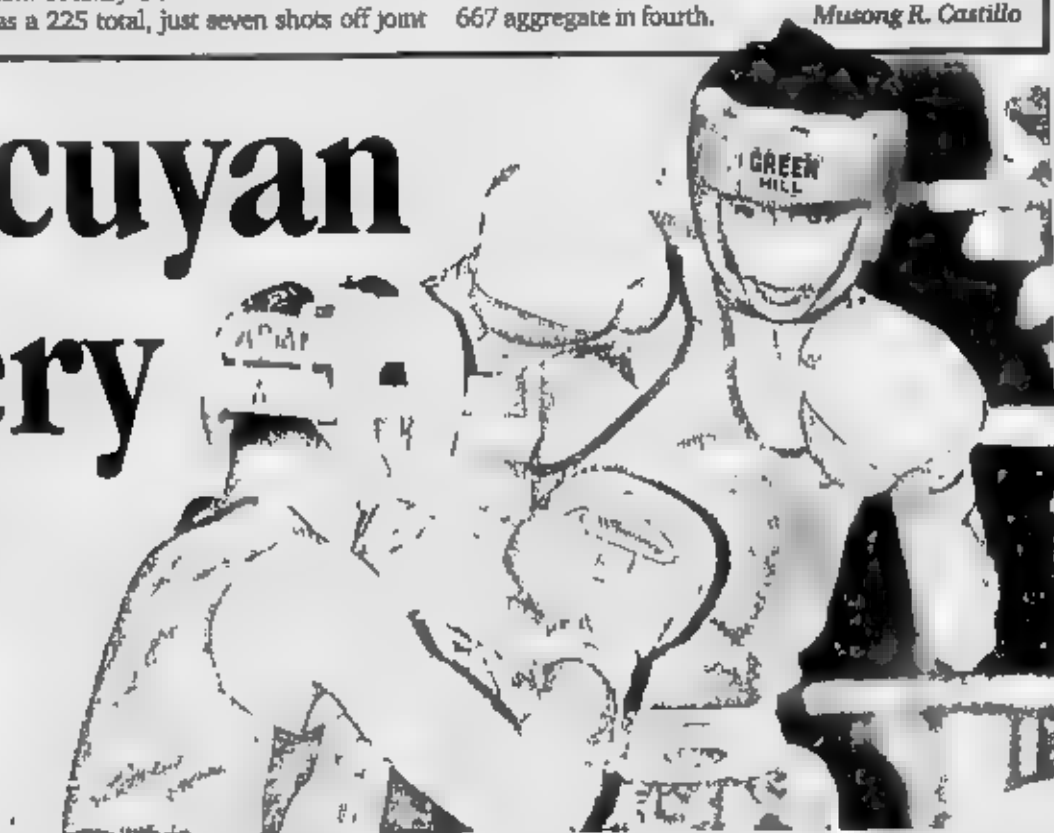
Tacuyan singled out Suarez of PN/Davao del Norte-A, as the biggest

thorn in his gold-medal bid. A member of the national team to Chicago, Suarez outpointed fellow Navyman Junel Cantancio, 32-22, to make the semifinals.

Laput beat Paston Sombrio of Camiguin via retirement at the start of the second round. Hometown bet Basadre turned back Emerson Moroco of Meycauyan, Bulacan, via RSC-O.

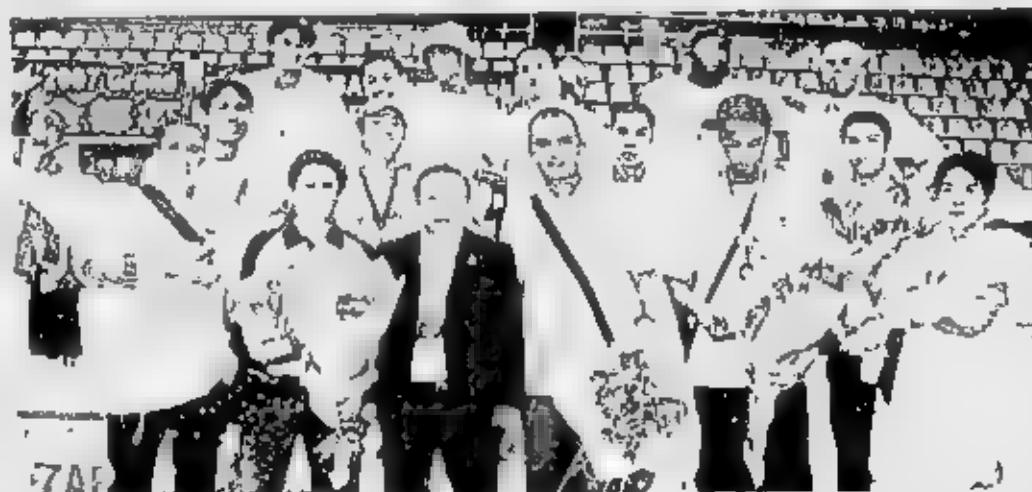
Also advancing to the semifinals in the pinweight division (45 kg) were North Cotabato's Rey Mercado, PN/Bago City's Bill Vicera, Davao del Norte-A's Riche Bejoc and Zubiri Boxing Team's Michael Paragoso.

All won via referee stopped contests, except for Bejoc, who won on points over Marlon Dalanta of Gingoog, 35-15.



ORLANDO Tacuyan (right) sizes up Baguio's Rey Enoc before the stoppage.

HAPPY LIMA



GOOD FOR THIRD: Members and officials of the RP-Air21 Express team which placed third in the recent Grand Waldo-Asian Basketball Association Championship in Shenzhen, China, show their trophy and medals. The Express, who finished with a 3-2 win-loss record behind the Koreans (5-0) and Iranians (3-1), were led by coaches Bo Perasol and assistant Johnny Tam.

So zaps Lithuanian, faces Pole next

YEREVAN, ARMENIA—FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL Master Wesley So made his presence felt in the 2007 World Junior Chess Championship, beating Lithuanian Emilis Pileckis in the first round at the Tigran Petrosian Chess House here Wednesday.

The 13-year-old So, seeded 13th in the tournament with an Elo rating of 2531, adeptly handled white to beat the Lithuanian in 40 moves of a Sicilian-Pelikan and join 32 other early winners in the 13-round Swiss System tournament.

So, a high school sophomore at St. Francis College of Bacoor, will next meet Fide Master Krzysztof Burski (Elo 2421) of Poland in the second round late Thursday.

"It's a good start," said So, who is with his father William in Armenia. "But the tournament is long and there are many talented players here."

Acce Salvador, the RP entry in girls' play, bowed to WFM Sarah Hoolt of Germany. Salvador's next foe is Ghazal Hakimifard of Iran. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Seigle, Mamaril
fight in practice

By Musong R. Castillo

WHOEVER SAID THAT MAGNOLIA and Barangay Ginebra share sisterly love is totally mistaken.

Magnolia forward Danny Seigle and Ginebra center Billy Mamaril came to blows during practice game on Wednesday, a fight that occurred on the court and in full view of Philippine Basketball Association technical officials.

But both will not be fined since the fight, which happened in the second quarter of a close Ginebra victory, came in a practice game.

Both players swung at each other, according to PBA technical chief Perry Martinez, who dropped by the two teams' practice to supervise the implementation of some of the league's new rules.

PBA referees are officiating the workouts of the teams to familiarize them with the new rules that will be implemented when the league's 33rd season opens with

the Philippine Cup on Oct. 14 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ginebra and Magnolia, then known as San Miguel Beer, figured in the championship series of this tournament last year, with the Gin Kings prevailing in six games of a highly physical series.

To give the players more leeway for higher scoring contests, the league, in a board meeting held in Macau a week ago, approved the relaxation of the hand-check rule, moved the three-point arc closer to the basket and changed the shape of the shaded lane.

From rectangular, the paint will now be trapezoidal in shape to allow the players to work closer to the goal and promote more action underneath.

A three-point shot will now come from just 20 feet, two shorter than the old distance, and referees have been instructed to keep the ball out of their hands during dead-ball situations to allow the players to run more.

Task Force: 591 final number of SEAG bet

By June Navarro

THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES TASK FORCE has pegged to 591 the number of Filipinos vying in the biennial meet slated in Thailand in December.

But Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros said the list would still undergo the scrutiny of the Olympic body's executive board

before officially releasing the names of the athletes.

Athletics, which captured nine gold medals in the 2005 Manila Games, has the biggest group of athletes with 40, more than the 34 entries comprising the men's and women's softball team.

Boxing and taekwondo, two rich medal sources for the Philippines, have 17 and 16 fighters, respectively. Other disciplines with big entries are fencing (24),

cycling (19), shooting (17), swimming (16), karate-do (15), sepak takraw (15), pencak silat (14), judo (14), archery (13), billiards and snookers (13), bowling (12), lawn bowls (12), muay thai (12) and dancsport (12).

Wushu, rowing, sailing will have 11 athletes each while tennis, table tennis, beach volleyball, petanque and triathlon submitted eight entries apiece.

Archers end Warriors' victory streak

From page A25

who averaged a league-best 85.2 points per game, to their lowest scoring production this season.

And the Archers did push the Warriors to play their worst with a season-high turnover of 31.

"We really prepared so well in today's game; our defense was really excellent," said Franz.

Tang sparked the scoring surge by firing the Archers' first nine points in the fourth period for 56-53. JV Casio also nailed a crucial jumper for a 62-60

Archers' lead at the 1:58 mark.

"We're rookies in the Finals and it really showed in our game," said Dindo.

The Archers responded every time the Warriors threatened to pull away in the first half.

Borboran shot five straight points in a 10-0 run that pushed the Warriors ahead, 31-23, in the second quarter.

The Warriors earned a 37-29 lead with James Martinez firing back-to-back treys, but the Archers retaliated with eight unanswered points capped by

triples from Peejay Barua and Casio for a deadlock at 37-37.

Over at the gallery, the Pumarens divided their allegiance with father Pilo supporting the La Salle side and mother Marietta sitting behind the UE bench as their two youngest sons coached their first Finals game against each other.

The win also turned out to be a validation for the Archers, one of the few squads who gave the Warriors a scare late in the season.

The Warriors struggled to dispose the

Archers with a 92-84 overtime decision to complete the elimination-round sweep. It was a reversal from their first meeting when the Warriors dismantled the Archers in a 96-76 blowout.

The scorers:
LA SALLE 64—Tang 17, Casio 12, Villarueva 11, Maaholter 7, Ferdinand 5, Walsham 3, Barua 3, Aldine 2, Mangahas 2, Cua 2, Melabes 0, Go 0.

UE 43—Borboran 13, Martinez 11, Avallano 10, Thiele 7, Farruquie 6, Cua 3, Ungaray 3, Bandyong 2, Llagas 2, Gregorio 2, Espiritu 2, Calixtas 2.

Quarters: 14-20, 37-38, 47-50, 64-63.

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Tragedy strikes local football

Motorcycle mishap kills Fegidero

By Cedelf P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—FORMER NATIONAL football team standout Norman Fegidero sent an e-mail message to his Thailand-based brother, Dave, on Tuesday informing him that he already had Dave's entry form for the 2007 Southeast Asian Games.

Dave, a member of the Philippine futsal team that will mark its SEA Games debut this December in Thailand, never answered.

The following morning, Norman received the grim news from Dave's best friend, James Rafols: Dave passed away after sustaining injuries in a motorcycle accident in the southern Thailand city of Hat Yai at 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Dave was 29.

"We are in shock," Norman, the coach of West Negros College, told the Inquirer. "We were expecting him to come home to (Bacolod) when his contract ends in December."

Dave, the eighth among nine siblings, is also survived by brothers Samson and Joshua as well as sisters Leilani, Shuea, Honeylee, Rosmi and Norma.

Norman said Rafols, who also works in Hat Yai, is still trying to get details of the accident.

"All we know was that his back was badly broken," Norman said. "His jaw was also fractured."

Fondly called "Taboy" by his family and friends, Dave worked as an English teacher in Hat Yai until his death. Prior to his stint in Thailand, he coached the De La Salle-Zobel team for two years, following stints with the RP Under-23 and Senior teams.

Norman said their family is seeking the help of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration in Manila to hasten the return of



BIG LOSS: Dave Fegidero in action.

Dave's body.

A player who prefers to operate on the left side, Dave studied at Bacolod City National High School and helped Western Visayas capture several Palarong Pambansa titles. He has a business degree from the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, where he was an athletic scholar.

Along with brothers Norman and Joshua and cousin Troy Fegidero, he saw action in the 2000 Tiger Cup in Vietnam. He also represented the country in the 2002 World Cup Qualifiers and the 2004 Olympic Qualifiers.

Johnny Romualdez, president of the Philippine Football Federation, expressed his condolences to Dave's family.

"This is very tragic and Philippine football is grieving together with Dave's family," Romualdez said.

Romualdez said he has tasked PFF secretary-general Pablo Araneta to help the Fegidero family bury the national player.

Expect the unexpected.



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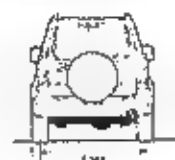
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Bangko Sentral reduces key rates

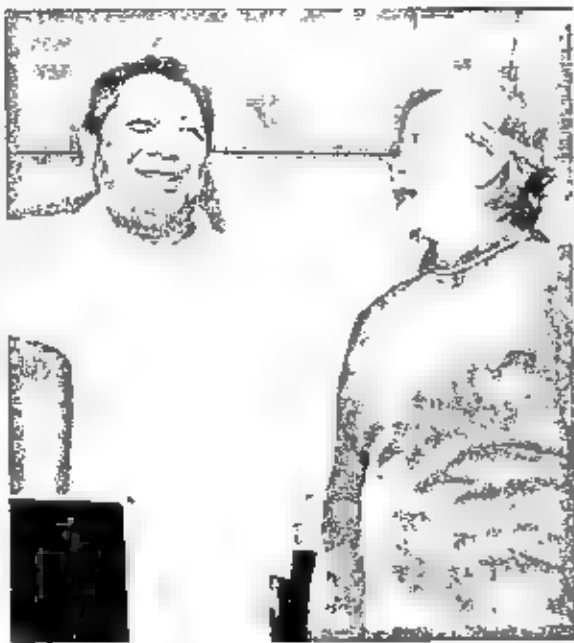
Fresh funds await PAL

By Elizabeth
Sanchez-Lacson

FLAG CARRIER PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. of tapan Lucio Tan will get a fresh shot in the arm from another Tan-owned company, PAL Holdings Inc., which is planning to increase its stake in the airline to around 92 percent from the existing 84 percent, PAL president Jaime Bautista said in a briefing yesterday.

Listed investment firm PAL Holdings currently owns 84 percent of PAL, and plans to subscribe to new shares in the airline which will hike PAL Holdings' stake to up 92 percent.

FRESH / B3



FE BARIN of the Securities and Exchange Commission hands over to Jaime Bautista, PAL president, the official documents releasing the airline from receivership.

BUJAY ESPERAS

In widely anticipated move, policy rates slashed by 25 bps

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE MONETARY Board yesterday slashed the benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points, easing the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' monetary policy for the second time this year.

The present levels are reported to be the lowest in 15 years.

The BSP's key policy rates will be reduced to 5.75 percent for the overnight borrowing or reverse repur-

chase rate, and 7.75 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate effective today.

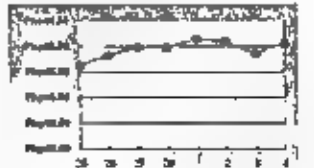
The widely anticipated move came two weeks after the US Federal Reserve sharply reduced its own key

The MB cited the benign inflation outlook even though the risks remain, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said after the board meeting yesterday.

"The continued strength of the peso provides a buffer against rising global commodity prices, including food and oil, while the impact of strong foreign exchange inflows on domestic liqui-

MONETARY / B2

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STOCK MARKET

Shares close little changed

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED little changed, after last-minute selling by investors ahead of a key interest rate decision by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, dealers said.

SHARES / B2

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Regulator treads carefully on forex liberalization

BSP casts cautious eye on global financial markets

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS will not be making any radical moves to liberalize foreign exchange due to concerns over global financial markets.

In a recent forum with exporters, a banker complained that the initial draft of the BSP's new wave of foreign exchange liberalization appeared to introduce only "minor" amendments to the measures initiated last April.

But according to BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guingundo, the central bank has to be cautious and refrain from making big moves based solely on existing trends.

"When you are held responsible for anything that happens in the monetary and financial system, you'll be more circumspect in presenting a very radical proposal to open the floodgates of foreign exchange," Guingundo said.

Although it may seem that an aggressive liberalization is needed to encourage more outflows and temper the peso's sharp appreciation, Guingundo said the authorities should not assume that the favorable global economic environment would be permanent.

"Anytime, the market situation can reverse," Guingundo said. "You don't want to open today the floodgates and tomorrow you close it again. That is ambivalence in terms of policy implementation."

"I think we need to be more circumspect when assessing economic and political situations not only in the Philippines but in the global environment."

Recently, the International Monetary Fund warned that the US subprime mortgage crisis could drag on at least through 2008, which may expose emerging markets to greater vulnerabilities.

Last April, the BSP initiated its first round of forex liberalization, increasing banks' allowable foreign currency purchases as a share of unencumbered capital—known as the overbought limit—from 2.5 percent or \$5 million, whichever is lower, to a pre-Asian crisis ratio of 20 percent or \$50 million.

BSP sources said a further increase in the outward investment limit may be included in the second wave of liberalization, which is expected to be finalized before the year's end.

The miracle of malunggay

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ON OCT. 2, A DAY AFTER HE WAS appointed program director of the Department of Agriculture's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani Program on High Value Commercial Crops (HVCCC), Dr. Rafael Espino called me to tell me his three priorities: Higher farmer income, better nutrition and increased food security.

When I was at the DA, I had worked with Espino, who held the same position, in the early 2000s. At that time, he formulated a successful project where a combination of vegetable foundation seeds—that would provide optimal vitamins and minerals for a family for a whole year—were sold in packets for P10 each.

After he left the DA in 2002, he continued his work for small farmers, taking this project to Gawad Kalinga in the interim. He says he will pursue this project on a wider scale at the DA to benefit small farmers.

I mentioned to Espino the possibility of malunggay being included in this packet of seeds since it had so many desirable properties. Thus started our conversation on the potential miracle of malunggay.

Unknown product

Malunggay, or "moringa" to the rest of the world, has been promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the last twenty years as a low cost health enhancer in poor countries around the world. Yet today, it is still relatively unknown.

"The sale of all forms of vitamins, minerals, and health supplements is a big business," according to Moringa Zanga, a US company that promotes and sells malunggay products in capsules. "If you are a company selling hundreds of nutritional products, why would you sell a product that will wipe out all your other products? This is true for the pharmaceutical industries as well. These industries would rather that the general public remains ignorant about the moringa leaves."

Benefits

What exactly is the potential miracle of moringa? India's ancient tradition of "ayurveda" states that the leaves of the moringa tree can prevent 300 diseases. Modern science confirms this basic concept, while scientific research has shown that malunggay leaves provide almost miraculous nutritional value.

Gram for gram, moringa leaves contain four times the calcium and two times the protein in milk. It also contains seven times the vitamin C in oranges, three times the potassium in bananas, and four times the vitamin A in carrots.

Aside from improving human health, there are other significant advantages.

In "The Moringa Tree" by Dr. Martin L. Price (<http://www.echonet.org>), he cites the benefits of moringa leaf extract as a plant growth hormone, the moringa shoots as green manure to enrich agri-

cultural lands, moringa leaves as livestock feed because of its rich high protein content, moringa seed powder and the fresh cake left over from oil extraction as treatment for turbid water, moringa as a good live fence tree with its bark used to make mats and rope, and the compound in the flowers and roots of the moringa tree, pterygosperrin, as a powerful antibiotic and antifungal remedy.

Espino says that it is very easy to grow malunggay. It is even drought resistant. But is it profitable?

COMMENTARY

When I looked for the financial returns of planting malunggay, I called the DA's Agricultural Marketing and Assistance Service (AMAS). Though they have average production costs and returns for 27 products, malunggay was not one of them. However, Director Alice Ilaga of the DA's Biotechnology Program informed us that, for a hectare of malunggay, the estimated net income per year is P150,000.

More funding

For agriculture to flourish, it is important that it gets more investments. But investments usually come in if there is a promise of profit. The information on production costs and returns in the DA-AMAS database covers only 27 products. It was last updated in 2005.

There must be more funding to expand the product list to include important items like malunggay. Fur-

thermore, because of its importance to potential investors, the list must be updated up to 2007. Interested parties may call DA-AMAS director Francisco Ramos at 920-2216 to access their existing database and get valuable agricultural business advice from his staff.

The promotion budget for products like malunggay should also be increased. It is fortunate that, this week, malunggay is being promoted in a DA booth at the on-going Agri-Link Fair at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard.

Potential miracle

Other projects, like "Food Always In The Home" (FAITH), promoted by Dr. Florentino Solon (0918-9175197), president for the last thirty years of the Nutrition Center of the Philippines, should also get more support.

Solon cites malunggay as the "most powerful and most wonderful" of the five vegetables that are recommended.

The potential miracle of malunggay should not just remain an illusion, but a reality that would meet the three objectives Espino has identified. Higher farmer incomes, better nutrition and increased food security.

(The author is the chair of Agri-watch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112.)

Monetary Board reduces key rates

From page B1

ty has been mitigated by recent policy measures," Tetangco said.

He added inflation would still likely fall well below the 4-5 percent target range in 2007, and within the 3-5 percent point target range in 2008.

"Liquidity growth decelerated for the fourth consecutive month in August; weather conditions have broadly normalized, supporting favorable supply of agricultural products; and recent wage adjustments are not expected to generate additional inflationary pressures," the BSP chief explained.

But Tetangco said the BSP would continue to monitor developments in the global economy and remain watchful of any emerging risk to future inflation to ensure stable prices—a precondition to robust and durable economic growth.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guingundo said the central bank would be able to maintain growth in domestic liquidity below 20 percent in the following months.

"There are certain buffers, including a strong peso dollar rate," Guingundo said. "The risks have moderat-

ed. The continued strength of the peso... has been mitigated by recent policy measures," he said.

The BSP last adjusted its monetary settings in July with a 150-basis point cut in the overnight rates. It also scrapped a tiering system that paid declining interest rates on high volume of funds parked with the central monetary institution.

Recently, the BSP also reported that growth in the country's domestic liquidity eased to 14.9 percent in August year-on-year from 18.7 percent annual in July.

Shares close... From page B1

Strength in select blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. kept the index in positive territory for most of the session, they said.

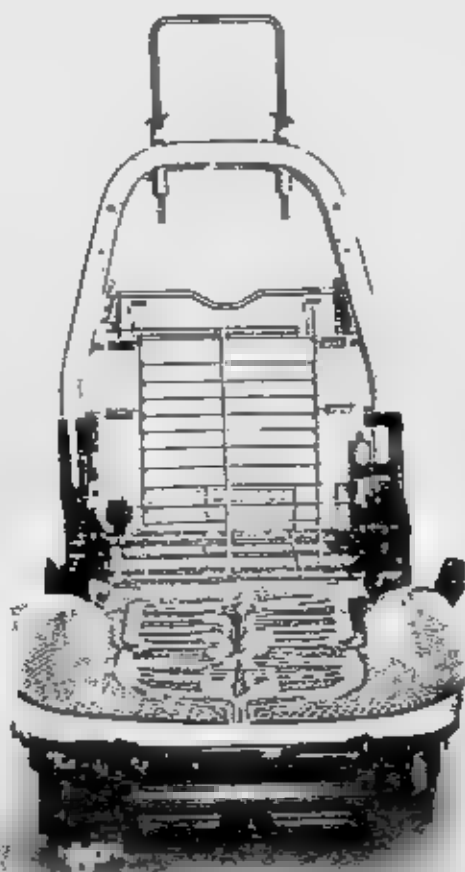
The composite index was up 5.64 points at 3,775.46, after moving between 3,732.89 and 3,801.30.

A total of 7.9 billion shares valued at P8.2 billion (\$182 million) changed hands.

Decliners narrowly outnumbered gainers 63 to 61, while 43 stocks were flat.

PLDT closed unchanged at P3,040. But rival Globe Telecom Inc. closed P60 higher at P1,600, off its new record high of 1,610.

Metrobank advanced P1.50 to P59.50. AFP



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Korean firm raises Subic stake

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOUTH KOREAN PROPERTY DEVELOPER KT Global Subic Inc. has increased its committed investment in a 17-story, five-building condominium-hotel complex in Subic Bay to \$103 million from just \$3 million.

Also, KT Global decided to advance the completion of the first building by two years to 2010, with the rest to follow in six to 10 years.

KT president Hong Shuk Kim said in a statement that KT Global, a unit of KT Construction Co. Ltd., wanted to help boost the Subic Bay free port's bid to become among the best retirement havens in the country.

Dubbed Subic Ampelos Tower, KT's project will be the first high-rise building in the free port.

Hong said KT Global wanted to intro-

duce in Subic its philosophy of "providing high-quality and state-of-the-art features in customer satisfaction by incorporating the design of its buildings."

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There's life after rehab

MENTION THE WORD REHABILITATION (rehab, for short) and the first thing that usually comes to mind is drug addiction.

Going on rehab is an admission that all efforts to expel the drug demon from a person have failed; only medical treatment under strict supervision will solve the problem.

In the business world, rumors about a company filing for rehab immediately send alarm signals to affected creditors, banks and financial institutions.

There will be a scramble to minimize the adverse effects of the reported action. The delivery of contracted supplies is stopped. Credit lines are suspended. Mortgaged properties are physically, if not forcibly, taken over.

Unlike in drug dependency, filing for rehabilitation is regarded a prelude to closure and liquidation.

Last week, Philippine Airlines showed there is life after rehabilitation. It exited, ahead of schedule, from the 10-year rehabilitation program it entered into in 1998 with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The happy ending in PAL's rehabilitation is a fitting swan song to the SEC's erstwhile responsibility over "rehab cases" or petitions for suspension of payments or receivership.

Objective

In 2000, the Securities Regulation Code transferred the jurisdiction over these cases from the SEC to the regular courts, except those pending with the SEC on the cut-off date.

With the growing complexity of such cases, the lawmakers felt their resolution should be done through the stricter judicial process rather than the standard administrative procedure.

Regardless of the venue, the objective of rehab cases remains the same: To help distressed companies get back on their feet so they can meet their contractual obligations to creditors and other stakeholders.

For the honest businessman, filing for rehabilitation is a painful act. It's

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica



an admission that something went wrong with his business plans or management of the company.

There is no joy in asking a court to enjoin creditors from enforcing payment obligations or suppliers with holding delivery of contracted materials and, at the same time, request the appointment of a receiver to oversee the operation of the company.

Evaluation

Contrary to the general impression, applications for rehabilitation are not automatically granted.

If the financial statements submitted by the company show that it is bankrupt and therefore beyond salvation, its application for rehabilitation will be rejected outright.

There's no point in prolonging the agony of a company that has no assets or credits to lean on for survival. Whatever money it still has would be better spent in the settlement (no matter how small) of its obligations.

In a recent case, the Supreme Court upheld the action of the SEC in dismissing a rehab case after it found the rehabilitation plan submitted by the company not viable.

The assets valuation submitted by the company was unrealistic. Its production and sales projections were questionable. On the basis of the figures submitted, it was apparent the company was beyond redemption.

In essence, the court plays a limited role in rehab cases. After it has issued the stand-still order to the creditors, approved the rehabilitation plan and appointed a receiver, the receiver and company officials carry the ball from there. His Honor steps back into

picture only when, based on the receiver's periodic reports, there is a need to do so, or his intervention is sought by any of the affected parties.

Cooperation

Unless the court orders a total takeover by the receiver of the operation of the company, the latter has to perform his job in close coordination with management.

The receiver has to be firm in the implementation of the revenue-raising and cost-cutting measures in the restructuring program without unduly interfering with the work of the company officials.

In a bit of irony, although the receiver owes his appointment to the court and therefore cannot be removed without its consent, his compensation is paid out of company funds.

For its part, the management must respect and comply with the terms and conditions of the rehabilitation plan.

It's no longer business-as-usual. The officials' pay may have to be reduced or some perks stopped to conserve company funds. Sometimes, the officials have to take orders from the receiver, under pain of court sanction.

A critical element in the rehabilitation process is the stockholders. While waiting for the revenue-raising and cost-cutting measures to bear fruit, they have to cough up with the money needed to sustain the company's operations.

Banks will not lend money to companies under rehabilitation whose stockholders, although capable, do not want to increase their financial exposure.

A distressed company that insists on using other people's money first, without requiring its stockholders to bring in additional capital, is not serious about its rehabilitation.

If the rehabilitation program is scrupulously followed, there is no reason for the company not to have a fresh lease on life.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

SMIC earmarking P3B for hotel projects in '08

Lafayette gets \$10-M loan

THE RAPU RAPU POLYMETALLIC project will get a loan of US\$10 million shortly for working capital from a foreign group that is also looking at investing \$140 million more that can make the Lafayette group free of debt.

"This is a vote of confidence from basically the same investors that made available \$15 million to the project just days after the final lifting order was issued by the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), thereby allowing us to resume normal operations last February," said Lafayette Phils. chair and president Carlos G. Dominguez.

Dominguez said the loan would put the firm in better stead to improve operations and pursue its community projects. "The project has surmounted all its social and regulatory issues and is attractive once again. But it needs the additional investments because it is under-capitalized and over-leveraged," he said.

The investors, a specialist fund, committed \$15 million in convertible notes of Lafayette Mining last February.

This fund has teamed up with other investors to settle all the group's debts and hedging obligations. It signed yesterday the term sheet with Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd. The group will complete its due diligence by Nov. 30.

Hamilo Coast dev't in full swing

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. IS spending at least P3 billion mainly for the hotel developments at its 60-hectare Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City.

Portion of the amount will also be used for Hamilo Coast projects in 2008, SMIC executive vice president Jose Sio said.

SMIC senior vice president Merrill Yu said the company would start construction of a four-star hotel, under the Radisson Hotel brand, at the Mall of Asia complex next year. It is scheduled for completion in October 2009.

Also, SMIC and Shoemart Inc. earlier inked an agreement with Microtel Development Corp. for a 150-room Microtel Inns and Suites project also at the SM Mall of Asia. It will be located near the SMX Convention Center. The project will break ground in December.

The SM group would lease the land to Microtel Inns and Suites, which will develop and manage the hotel. Microtel operates a chain of budget hotels.

SMIC's hotel investment group was organized to optimize multiple investment vehicles in travel and tourism, and add value to the

existing businesses of the holding firm. It owns Taal Vista Hotel.

SMIC projects in the pipeline include a five-star hotel in Cebu City under the Sofitel brand which will open next year, a hotel in Hamilo Coast, and boutique hotels in selected sites in Luzon and the Visayas.

In the meantime, the first residential cluster at the Pico de Loro Cove in Hamilo Coast, called Jacana, was 80-percent sold as of end-September.

Pico de Loro is the first phase of Hamilo Coast's 13 coves.

SMIC said in a disclosure yesterday to the stock exchange that construction of the residential cluster had been in full swing. The two buildings consisting of 240 units are expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2008.

Following its mid-September 2007 launch, month-end unit sales of Myna, the second residential condo cluster in Pico de Loro, reached 30 percent of total inventory of 240 units.

Scheduled for launching in November is Pico de Loro Beach & Country Club, which will feature a beach club, country club and an outdoor Eco-adventure area.

CURRENCIES

October 4, 2007	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.709824	1.000000	44.9990
Japan	Yen	0.008080	0.008566	0.3855
United Kingdom	Pound	1.442078	2.031604	91.4200
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091499	0.128904	5.8006
Switzerland	Franc	0.601495	0.847386	38.1315
Canada	Dollar	0.711033	1.001703	45.0756
Singapore	Dollar	0.479125	0.674992	30.3740
Australia	Dollar	0.630394	0.888099	39.9636
Bahrain	Dinar	1.883771	2.653857	119.4209
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.189762	0.267337	12.0298
Brunei	Dollar	0.477513	0.672721	30.2718
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.001100	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022463	0.031646	1.4240
LAE	Dirham	0.93281	0.272294	12.2530
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.408800	63.3946
Korea	Won	0.000777	0.001095	0.0493
China	Yuan	0.094457	0.130771	5.9881
Denmark	Kroner	0.134147	0.188986	8.5042
India	Rupiah	0.018025	0.025394	1.1427
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208190	0.293298	13.1981
New Zealand	Dollar	0.539257	0.759705	34.1860
Sweden	Kroner	0.108902	0.153421	6.9038
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.021793	0.030702	1.3816

Source: Reuters'路透电报 prices as of Oct. 4, 2007. * Approximate closing rates as of Oct. 4, 2007.

COL named lead agent of I-Remit

CITISECONLINE OR COL HAS BEEN named the lead selling agent of the I-Remit Inc. offering.

I-Remit is the largest nonbank independent local remittance company in the Philippines which is scheduled to go public on Oct. 17.

Through the Local Small Investor Program (LSIP), the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission made it possible for retail investors and individual stock market participants to participate in IPOs and maximize opportunities offered by the stock market.

Investors can subscribe to the IPO through the Internet by opening an account with COL. Company president Conrado Bate said the company was privileged to be serving small investors through the LSIP. Citiseconline has been at the forefront of educating the investing public, so they can make well-informed investment decisions in the Philippine stock market.

BANKS									
1.3	5.5	Acropolis Bank Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.1	64.000		
73	30	Bank of the Philippine Islands	83	84	82	83	2,232.500		
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	89	70.5	58	70	4,403.200		
748	504	China Banking Corp.	720	730	720	730	8.180		
23.5	18.5	Cristina Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300		
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,370.000		
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	58	50	58	59.5	10,593.500		
68.5	33	Philippine National Bank	50.5	53.5	50.5	52.5	1,500		
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	81	82.5	81	82.5	1,759.000		
39.57	15	Rural Commercial Building Corp.	28	28	27.5	28	185.400		
90	50	Security Bank Corp.	77	78	77	77.5	467.000		
85	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	54.5	56.5	54.5	55	467.000		
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS									
5.6	1.6	ATR Banking Financial Corp.	3.95	4.05	3.95	4	260.000		
2.22	0.6	Banking Corp.	1.88	1.96	1.88	1.96	2,850.000		
16.25	4.2	CiticOnline.com Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	378.600		
8.8	4.6	Reliance Fund Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.3	2.000		
1.6	0.4	East Asia Financial Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.87	0.87	150.000		
42	29	Frisco Financial Corp.	42	42	42	42	700		
1,820.00	1,560.00	Manila Financial Corp.	1,810.00	1,810.00	1,810.00	1,810.00	2,861.000		
2.93	2.95	National Resources Corp. of the Phils.	3.7	3.8	3.65	3.75	3,000		
3.1	1.02	PC - Insurance and Finance Inc.	1.98	1.96	1.96	1.96	3,000		
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	860	860	840	850	2,460		
1.2	1.3	Wanigan Corp.	1.6	1.32	1.6	1.62	740.000		
RETAILERS, ENERGY, POWER & WATER									
6.2	3.8	Alaska Power Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	1,250.000		
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	90.000		
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	67	68.5	67	68.5	1,023.900		
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	82.5	86	82.5	86	96		
16	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	15.25	15.25	14.5	14.75	724.000		
105.48	17.5	Manila Water Co. Inc.	87	86	85	87	2,403.800		
7.6	4.3	PNDC Energy Development Corp.	6.8	7.6	6.9	7.6	80,451.000		
6.5	3.9	Perpetua Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7,949.200		
14.75	5.6	Proterra Petroleum Philippines Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.32	98.000		
1.2	0.98	Trans Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.3	1.32	70.000		
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO									
5.5	3.4	Asaka Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4,000		
2.96	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.78	1.84	1.78	1.82	1,881.000		
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	2,000		
61	35	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	53.5	53	53	517.000		
0.98	0.44	ADM Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.8	2,030.000		
3.85	2.06	ADM Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	561.000		
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	62.5	65	61.5	64	142.300		
88	50.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64.5	65	64	64	27.000		
4.7	2	Tandayong Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	9,562.500		
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16.25	15.75	16.25	9,562.500		
6.5	3.5	Universal Robina Corp.	0.75	0.42	0.75	0.4	2.4		
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES									
5	5	Cheniere Technologies Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	1,039.000		
21.5	6	Federa Chemicals Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.5	4,015.000		
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.5	4,015.000		
7	1.5	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	78,295.000		
7	1.5	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	78,295.000		
CHEMICALS									
5.4	3.3	Cheniere Technologies Inc.	4.4	4.65	4.4	4.55	4,015.000		
5.4	3.3	Cheniere Technologies Inc.	4.4	4.65	4.4	4.55	4,015.000		
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS									
5.9	4.38	A. Jollibee Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	5,000		
0.1	0.025	AJL Net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	87,500.000		
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.85	0.87	0.84	0.84	15,590.000		
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.9	3	2.8	3	81.000		
0.018	0.007	Atlas Corp. Res. and Holdings Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	87,700.000		
0.019	0.0075	Atlas Corp. Res. and Holdings Inc. "B"	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	8,000.000		
9.7	5.3	Asiatic Equity Ventures Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	2,640.000		
0.021	0.0075	Asiatic Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	220,600.000		
7.3	3.5	Asiatic Gold Resources Corp.	5.9	6	5.8	6	28,099.000		
1.38	0.52	Asiatic Gold Resources Corp.	0.88	0.9	0.86	0.9	400.000		
1.5	0.2	Asia Integrated Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50.000		
2.9	0.89	Asia Integrated Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.42	2.38	2.4	1,788.300		
15.25	3.75	Asya Corp.	605	615	595	600	515.550		
5.8	1.22	Bangor Consolidated Industries Inc.	14	14	13.5	14	56.000		
10.25	3.75	Bangor Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4,501.000		
6.9	1.06	Bangor Holdings Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4,501.000		
8	2.55	DALCO Holdings Inc.	9	9.1	9	9.1	1,895.000		
3.55	1.26	Eaton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.4	4.4	1,700.000		
14.5	6.4	Farmers Development Corp.	5.4	6.7	5.8	6.7	2,378.000		
5.9	0.81	House of Investments Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	202.500		
11.5	1.12	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.1	11.1	285.000		
0.235	0.13	Jollibee Holdings Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.1	6	8,856.000		
0.75	0.19	Manila Water Co. Inc.	0.185	0.235	0.185	0.235	1,477.800.000		
2.1	1.27	Manila Water Co. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	3,880.000		
452.5	237.84	Prime Urban Philippines Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	62.000		
4.2	1.08	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	390	422.5	390	407.5	479.350		
0.73	0.125	Seaboard Resources Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.22	1.22	26.000		
1.06	0.6	Sinoripha Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	10,320.000		
1.6	0.9	Solid Corp. Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	29.000		
23	0.1	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	140.000		
0.75	0.1	TAC Steel Corp.	16.25	18.25	16.25	18.25	12,230.000		
1.1	0.75	Weller - Cusillas Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	25.000		
PROPERTY									
2.4	0.88	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.45	1.48	161.000		
8.8	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	5	7.9	6	7.7	12.000		
1.06	0.32	Alamara P. Properties Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	500.000		
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17	17.25	16.75	17.25	17,837.800		
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	3,262.000		
4.7	2.7	Debu Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.5	1,214.000		
2.8	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	14.000		
0.86	0.31	Crown - Curves Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.67	1,570.000		
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.51	1,720.000		
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.77	11,620.000		
0.47	0.05	Ever Green Resources and Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	15,970.000		
1.48	0.51	Fin-Sure Land Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.28	16,058.000		
2.44	1.28	Filminvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.84	1.86	68,247.000		
0.49	0.1	Goleston and Inc. "A"	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.34	856.000		
0.5	0.1	Goleston and Inc. "B"	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	140.000		
1.12	0.24	MPL - Allied Industries Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.6	0.6	1,740.000		
4.4	1.75	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.25	4	4.2	179,741.000		
5.4	1.5	Met - Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	225.000		
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.58	0.62	29,530.000		
9.2	1.14	Polsa Property Holdings Corp.	4.8	5.6	4.8	5.5	210.000		
23	12.5	Robinson and Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	5,800.000		
5.9	1.52	S&M Development Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.5	2,074.000		
13.5	5.64	S&M Prime Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	14,438.000		
3.25	0.18	Shangri Properties Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	60.000		
1.34	0.18	Shangri Properties Inc.	0.68	0.71	0.68	0.68	2,730.000		
0.49	0.08	Universal Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,640.000		
3.5	2.75	Universal Holdings Inc.	5.4	6	5.1	6	48,380.000		
MEDIA									
36.5	16.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	33	32	32	71.5		
8.5	8	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.5	87.5		
TELECOMMUNICATIONS									
4.2	1	Global Telecom Inc.	1.48	1.52	1.44	1.52	673.000		
1,610.00	1,055	Global Telecom Inc.	1,540.00	1,610.00	1,535.00	1,600.00	1,600.000		
3,065.00	2,180	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,000.00	3,055.00	3,000.00	3,040.00	10,650.000		
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY									
0.39	0.2	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	11,000.000		
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	5.0		
11.5	2	MPNG Corp.	9.2	9.5	9	9.4	7,867.000		
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.046	0.044	0.045	145,300.000		
25.5	8	Universal Resources Inc. "A"	16.5	18.5	16.5	18.5	32		
2.9	1.48	Unicom Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	181.000		
0.32	0.093	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.19	0.22	0.185	0.215	170,330.000		
2.06	1.1	Mythic Semiconductors Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	5,800.000		
0.0725	0.033	PhilWeb Corp. Inc.	0.0575	0.058	0.055	0.056	482.100.000		
5.6	1.2	TransAsia Broadband Group Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	1,200.000		
CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES									
2.44	1.14	Abolito Transport System Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	62		
4.48	16.75	Left Coastal Terminal Services Inc.	38	38	38.5	39	1,082		
2.18	0.8	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	33		
7.14	0.8	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	33		
FORE & FORESTRY									
4.25	8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.25	1,055		
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.9	5	4.9	5	80		
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.63	0.67	1,290		
1.7	2	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	1.47	1.47	1.43	1.47	1,290		
EDUCATION									
9.8	7.2	Declaro Escorial University	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	1,000		
17	7.6	Declaro Escorial University	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	1,000		
INTEGRATED SERVICES									
6	1.94	Macrosia Corp.	4.8	5.4	4.8	5.1	3,900		
17.25	8.38	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	149		
30	11.5	Pavys Inc.	13	13	12.75	12.75	908		
MINING									
0.007	0.0003	Apex Mining Corp. Inc. "A"	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.012	1,300.000		
0.007	0.0003	Apex Mining Corp. Inc. "B"	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.012	1,300.000		
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cos. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16	18	16.5	18.5	1,883		

Consolidate FTAs, Asean urged

Meralco capital bike approved

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION has authorized Manila Electric Co. to issue more than 100 million additional common stocks, which will effectively raise the utility's capital stock by P1.7 billion.

In an order signed Sept. 26, the regulatory body said the increase in Meralco's capital stock was justifiable, considering the company's ERC-approved capital expenditure, and operations and maintenance budgets for 2007.

Based on Meralco's approved budget for the year, the ERC said the power distributor would need more than P16.9 billion this year, which was P11 billion short of the company's available funds for 2007.

The ERC likewise found that Meralco's application to issue additional stocks or stock certificates "will have no adverse effect or impact on existing rates, and will ultimately benefit Meralco consumers in terms of continuous, reliable and efficient power supply as mandated by the (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001), and will strengthen its social commitment to its consumers, thereby promoting public interest."

With this approval, Meralco's authorized capital stock will increase from P10.8 billion to P12.5 billion.

The regulatory body gave Meralco a month from the receipt of the order to submit a breakdown of the use of the proceeds of the additional stock issuance.

It also ordered the distribution utility to pay a "permit fee" of P12.75 million within 10 days from the receipt of the decision.

Meralco is also asking the ERC to increase its weighted average cost of capital to 15.63 percent from the earlier approved 12.8 percent under the distribution utility's performance-based rate-making (PBR) methodology filing.

In a 27-page motion for reconsideration, the power distributor said pegging its WACC at only 12.8 percent "would be unreasonable in the light of unfavorable long-term economic indicators, which could result in a much higher level of inflation and interest rates in the future."

Single framework seen to encourage low-income members to participate

By Doris C. Dumiao

AN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PAPER has urged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to spearhead the consolidation of multiple and overlapping free trade agreements into a single East Asian framework to benefit the whole region.

The consolidation can help mitigate the harmful "noodle bowl" effects of different rules of origin and standards, the ADB said in a discussion paper released yesterday.

The ADB paper, written by economists Masahiro Kawai and Ganeshan Wignaraja, said: "This move will encourage the participation of low-income countries in freer trade arrangements, reduce trade-related business costs particularly for small and medium enterprises, and promote trade and investment."

Rules of origin (ROO)—which exist to determine which goods will enjoy preferential bilateral tariffs and thus prevent trade deflection among FTA members—was cited as an interesting aspect of East Asian FTAs.

"This suggests that coordination of rules of origin and harmonization of standards at the global level would be most desirable," the paper said.

But given the politically difficult task of global trade liberalization under the World Trade Organization, the paper said Asean must be at the core of the initiative for such a consolidation to occur.

"Asean is clearly a natural 'hub' for the

creation of an East Asian FTA as key production networks are rooted in Asean and major economies are linking to the region via Asean plus one FTAs," the paper said.

It also noted that the timeline for the Asean Economic Community had also been brought forward to 2015 from 2020.

The paper suggested that an East Asian FTA may be built upon Asean plus one FTAs, and FTAs with non-Asean countries—China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India—would also be useful in forming a single East Asian FTA with Asean as its core.

WTO-plus elements must be further expanded and that the consolidation would yield the largest gains to East Asia among reasonable regional trade arrangements—while the losses to nonmembers are relatively small, the paper said.

The three wealthy East Asian economies—China, Japan and Korea—were urged to collaborate more closely. India, a latecomer to liberalization reforms, was likewise urged to pursue further structural reforms before linking up to these regional FTAs.

"Furthermore, substantial international support is required to strengthen the supply-side capacity of poorer Asean countries—including the building of trade-supporting infrastructure (transport, energy and telecommunications)—so that they can take advantage of integrated regional markets and narrow development gaps within Asean," the paper said.

Respect disclosure rules, PRCI told

MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS OF Philippine Racing Club Inc. has called on its board members to abide by rules and regulations that require prompt and full disclosure of business transactions and investor-related issues.

The group made the call in the wake of a recent action of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) penalizing PRCI for non-compliance with the Revised Disclosure Rules governing publicly-listed companies.

Lawyer Brigido Dulay said the PSE penalty "is a needless waste of corporate funds which could have been easily avoided." The PSE move shows the "alarming tendency within the board and top management to avoid full disclosure of material information," he added.

Dulay and other Filipino shareholders have lodged a complaint in court against

PRCI's majority directors alleging a similar absence of full disclosure concerning two major business transactions involving the firm's 22-hectare Sta. Ana racetrack.

In a derivative suit, the Filipino shareholders complained an alleged lopsided purchase of the P25-million JTH Davies Holdings by PRCI for more than P450 million and a subsequent move to swap the shares of the company with the title to the Sta. Ana racetrack currently valued at P10-P12 billion.

The Filipino shareholders also alleged that these transactions were done without full disclosure to investors in PRCI.

The PSE had called PRCI's attention regarding an alleged failure to disclose the derivative suit filed by the Filipino shareholders before the trial court against the PRCI board's majority directors.

Fresh funds await PAL

From page B1

PAL Holdings will raise fresh funds after its majority shareholder, Trustmark Holdings Corp., another Tan-led firm, sells 1.56 billion shares or 20 percent in PAL Holdings to qualified institutional investors within the month.

This secondary offer by Trustmark will allow it to raise funds, which it will reinvest in PAL Holdings. PAL Holdings, in turn, will invest in additional shares in PAL.

PAL Holdings has been given the authority by its board to enter into an underwriting agreement with Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte Ltd for the deal.

Bautista said a team composed of PAL and PAL Holdings officials will be conducting a roadshow in Europe, US and Asia to present the airline to interested investors relating to the secondary sale of shares.

Shares of PAL Holdings were suspended yesterday. The shares will resume

trading on Oct. 24.

Bautista yesterday formally announced that PAL has received the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to exit from rehabilitation.

This releases the airline from the scrutiny of creditors and corporate regulator.

PAL was placed under receivership or under close watch by third parties over its business activities in 1998.

Proof that it is well on its way to financial recovery, Bautista said PAL was able to reduce its obligations to \$869 million as of Aug. 31, from \$2.2 billion since it entered receivership.

As PAL moves out of receivership status and completes its rehabilitation program, it will be able to spend \$1.4 billion in total capital expenditures over the next three to four years, based on the value of airplanes it wants to purchase to expand its fleet, Bautista said.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE UK	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week October 02, 2007	Last Week September 26, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1 64427	1 63300
Managed Fund - Peso	1 94004	1 89483
Growth Fund - Peso	1 93993	1 82422
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1 4100	1 4057

INSULAR LIFE	Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure	
	UNIT PRICES (in PHP)	
	Oct. 1, 2007	Sept. 24, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1 299159	1 295335
Balanced Fund	1 482872	1 446703
Equity Fund	1 788779	1 705600

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that after obtaining regulatory approval, THE PRAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY INC has amended its corporate name and shall henceforth be known as the "MANULIFE CHINABANK LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION"

For inquiries, please call Ms. Joy Escobido at telephone number 884 5433 loc 5498 or e-mail us at admin@manulife-chinabank.com.ph You may also write our Head Office at:

20/F, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue
Makati City Metro Manila 1226

Attention Ms. Joy Escobido

Please be guided accordingly

1 October 2007

MANULIFE CHINABANK LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION
(formerly THE PRAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.)

Philippines Procurement Excellence Day

Procurement Best Practices Education is Key to Business, Government and our Country

October 10, 2007, Wednesday
8:00am - 5:00pm
New World Renaissance, Makati City, Philippines

Who should attend:
Philippine Corporations, Multinational Corporations, Government and Non-Government Organizations

Profile of attendees:
Chief Executive Officers, Chief Finance Officers, Chief Procurement Officers, Chief Procurement Officers, Auditors, VPs of Procurement & Supply Management, and Procurement Sourcing Professionals and all those in-charge of spending money. Human Resources, Engineers, Legal Heads

TransProcure awarded 2004 as the Rising Star in BPO Procurement Services, Best Young Supply Chain Solutions Provider (Singapore) in 2006 also awarded by ICI as Most Innovative BPO Company of the Year 2007

Top reasons why you must attend:

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- Listen about case studies of companies who've done world class practices in Procurement and see for yourself best-in-class "new" procurement technology enables that really works
- Know the various avenues & options to professionalize your procurement

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COACHES & Networking after the event
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(Coffee break & Lunch included)

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- Creating a Strategic Procurement program
- Strategic Sourcing for Better Transparency, Quality Service and Total cost of ownership
- Should Cost Modeling
- eProcurement
- Contract Management
- Procurement Outsourcing
- Procurement Education & Certification

Agenda:

- Procurement from bedroom to the boardroom
- Spending visibility - job number one
- Strategic Sourcing methodology
- Should Cost Modeling
- eProcurement: Reaping the benefits
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People, Events & Products

Ace Saatchi & Saatchi bags AdCon pitch

AFTER A HOTLY CONTESTED PITCH FOR the ad campaign of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress, Ace Saatchi & Saatchi was proclaimed the winner.

The Ace Saatchi & Saatchi team was represented by executive creative director Raul Floresca, creative director Manu Sandejas, account manager Gigi Garcia, and copywriter Edwin Ortega. They will now handle the Ad-Con's tri-media campaign in TVC, radio, and print ads.

Floresca recalls the day when they received calls from Ad Congress creative committee chair Raul Castro and competition sub-committee chair Merilee Jayme.

"Both Raul and Merilee asked us to go the Ad Congress office for a meeting. It was then that we found out that we won the pitch," he relates. "It was then that we found out we won the pitch. The walk back to the office was a happy one, and breaking the news to the team that worked on the requirement was even better. Everybody was ecstatic."

The well deserved win is also credited to their cohesive campaign which showed "how we could tie in the different mandates we had to work with: the logo, the venue, and the

theme of this year's Congress."

He shares working on the pitch was a product of team work and sheer persistence. He says, "We worked on it as we would any other pitch requirement. We had several teams working on their own ideas and then we regrouped to come up with our recommendation based on how each idea worked as a campaign. At the end of the day, the Aeta idea proved to be the strongest and most relevant to the theme."

The now growingly popular icon was inspired by - who else - the Aetas of Subic. From among the myriad of choices, the Aetas wove together all the elements that make up this year's theme.

Floresca explains, "The Aetas possess the ability to adapt to different environments while keeping their culture and traditions intact. To this day, the Aetas of Subic live as part of the rainforest, which they consider their home. In fact, they are active in the preservation of Subic's ecosystem. We felt that the industry should emulate them and learn how to adapt to change while still retaining our core competence."

It will be recalled that Subic was the largest

US naval installation outside the US, he points out, adding, "They used it as a staging area for many wars fought in Asia and even the Middle East. It was a powerful symbol of America's military might. Despite their being a superpower, the US still relied on the Aetas of Subic to teach their soldiers how to survive when caught in hostile territory. We simply put this together with the theme of The New Order, which is unfamiliar territory to many, and the venue."

Floresca admits that what is on air now is not how the idea was originally executed. He remarks, "It is a far cry from it. We had originally envisioned an Aeta similar to the bushman in the 'Gods Must Be Crazy' movies - one that was more comical. But we changed it due to several comments from the creative committee."

Despite having the comical angle dashed, the Ace Saatchi & Saatchi team members still had a lot of fun working on the spots. For Sandejas, it was all a great experience shooting the TV spots, developing the print materials and interacting with the Aetas.

He laughs, "We learned many things about their culture, the way they live and we even picked up important information for survival and sexual satisfaction. Salamat sa tugatug, Kapitani Boni!"

Ortega says, "Witnessing the Aetas' enduring ingenuity and uniqueness during the shoot was creatively inspiring. Their survival skills should be emulated by the advertising tribe."

Floresca chimes in, "Kapitan Boni (Bonifacio Florentino) was such a character. When he wasn't answering our questions about the rainforest, he was cracking jokes and delivering one-liners like a stand-up comedian. Funny guy! After the shoot, I told myself that I should go back to Subic and spend a few days with them just trekking through the forest."

Fun and learning: now that's what's going to make this year's Ad Congress doubly exciting. "The New Order" of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress takes place at the Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center on Nov. 21 to 24.

For more information, log on to www.20thadcongress-theneworder.com or call the 20th PAC secretariat at 894-3076, 894-0838, or 812-5622.



BFPB'S LUNCH WITH THE COACH FOR Q2 2007

At the start of the year, BPI Family Savings Bank (BFPB) launched the All Star Grand Slam 2007, an exclusive rewards program for its valued broker partners who refer housing loans to the bank. Part of the rewards the brokers enjoy is the quarterly "Lunch with the Coach" or President's Treat. This treat by BPI Family Savings Bank president, Alfonso Salcedo Jr., is reserved for the top 8 brokers of the quarter ranked according to the highest loan amount they have contributed. The top

8 brokers for the second quarter recently enjoyed a sumptuous lunch at the Cascada restaurant at the 2/F Greenbelt 3, Makati City. They likewise received gift tokens. Shown in photo are: (seated from left) Suzy Atayde, BFPB VP Jocelyn Sta. Ana, BFPB president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr., Jeanne Red and Rowena Ganiho, (standing from left) BPI SVP Ma. Lourdes Claravall, Carolyn Urtalan, Josephine Gaston, Marcelita Valdes, Beth del Rosario and BFPB AVP Ruel Magtoto.



Fruits of Hope at the SM Supermarket

HORDES OF SHOPPERS recently flocked to purchase Fruits of Hope at the SM Supermarket in Makati, buying out all the stocks of lanzones and mangosteen in the span of an hour. These Fruits of Hope were named as such because these embody the hopes of varied groups and sectors for peace and prosperity in Mindanao and Sulu.

This shipment of fruits from Sulu is an undertaking led by Senator Richard J. Gordon, together with the Philippine National Red Cross, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process, the Provincial Government of Sulu, the Asia-American Initiative, the Philippine Air forces, and SM Supermarket.

The program aims to help the hardworking fruit producers of Sulu and bring them economic development. SM Supermarket believes

that it is part of their social responsibility to bring about economic development to areas across the country.

Fresh manager Leah Lee expressed SM Supermarket's support to promote peace and prosperity in Mindanao. "We are honored to support a project such as this that enables sustainable livelihood of our farmers in Mindanao," she says. "We are eagerly awaiting the next batch of the fruits of hope. We believe in the program's thrust that continuous development in Sulu can bring about peace and prosperity in the region, and we are happy to be a part of it."

The next batch of Fruits of Hope is expected to arrive soon. This batch includes mangosteen, lanzones, rambutan, durian, marang, and pomelo, and will be sold at the SM Supermarket in Makati.

Rated PG: Parenting the Gifted

RAISING A GIFTED CHILD CAN POSE challenges to some parents. Without sufficient information, parents may not be able to bring out the best in their kids or realize their children's full potential. During the recently concluded seminar aptly dubbed Rated PG: Parenting the Gifted, parents spent a morning of understanding the intricacies and behaviors of gifted children, and learned a valuable holistic approach to understanding and nurturing giftedness.

Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas, the free invitational seminar organized by Promil Pre-School was given to parents who enrolled their children in its Nurture Camp Summer Workshops. It was aimed at providing the parents with additional support and useful information on nurturing their child's gift to its fullest potential.

In her welcome remarks, Abbiegail Neria-Bella Jaro, senior product manager for Promil Pre-School, emphasized the important role parents play in bringing the best among gifted children.

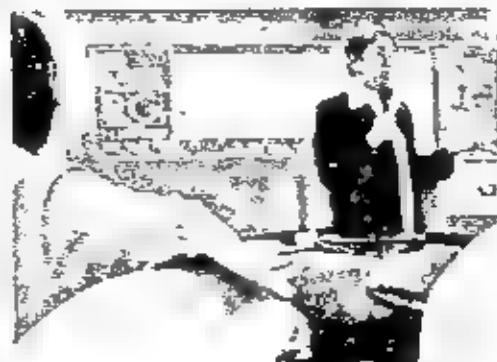
"We believe there is a gift in every child," Jaro said. "Our aim is to help supportive parents like you have a deeper understanding of

your children's gifts, from identifying, assessing and nurturing their gifts."

Three child development experts from the Philippine Association for the Gifted Inc. (PAG) were invited to shed light on different aspects of raising gifted children. PAG is an association of educators, development psychiatrists, doctors, parents, and advocates that offers diagnostic assessment, enrichment workshops, and psycho-emotional support for gifted children and their families.

Dr. Bernadette Carpio-Benitez, head of the developmental pediatrics section, pediatrics department of Asian Hospital and Medical Center, and active consultant to Makati Medical Center and Nationwide Health Systems, delved on Child Development and the Early Signs of Giftedness. She discussed the science behind the beginnings and early manifestations of giftedness in children.

After learning the initial stages of giftedness, the discussion progressed to Understanding and Nurturing Giftedness from Dr. Leticia Peñano-Ho, chair and president of PAG and representative of the gifted sector on the board of trustees for the Philippine Science High School. A psychologist, a guidance coun-



DR. LETICIA Peñano-Ho, chair and president of the Philippine Association for the Gifted Inc. (PAG), shares useful insights on how parents can properly raise their gifted children

selor and an educator, Dr. Ho explained that parents should also pay particular attention to the emotional stability of gifted children apart from honing their special abilities.

Capping off the forum was Dr. Cecilia Alip, a former professor on education, particularly of gifted children, from the UP College of Education. A recipient of a doctoral engagement course on Gifted Education from the University of Denver, Colorado, USA under a Fulbright Scholarship, Dr. Alip discussed the role of parents, teachers, and the community as a whole in molding gifted children and in making them part of society.

Rated PG is just one of the projects undertaken by Promil Pre-School in its efforts to educate parents of their role that goes beyond imparting good genes. Providing their children with proper care, by offering lots of support, right training and a stimulating environment, is equally important in nurturing the gift in their children. Promil Pre-School believes that by giving parents assistance and useful information, they will be able to properly raise and guide their gifted children.

Apart from the Rated PG seminar, Promil Pre-School also conducted an annual workshop for children in collaboration with experts in visual and performing arts. These workshops serve as an avenue for children to explore and develop their talents, and build character and confidence at the same time.



THE Rated PG seminar gave an opportunity for parents to fully understand the behavior of gifted children.

MAYBANK RECEIVES ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFICATION

Maybank Philippines recently hosted a simple reception for representatives of SGS Philippines, to mark the formal presentation of the ISO 9001:2000 Certification of the Reporting of Customer Complaint Management System. The certification was personally handed to Maybank Philippines president and CEO Ong Seet Joon by SGS Philippines managing director Rosario Bradbury. In the presence of key Maybank officers and select guests. With this citation, Maybank becomes the first bank in the Philippines to have passed the stringent ISO 9001:2000 requirements for this key area in customer service. This also strengthens Maybank's competitiveness since the standard brings more attention to the importance of quality objectives, continuous improvements and monitoring of customer satisfaction. Shown are (from left): Kristina A. Zamora, customer care officer (Maybank); Voltaire R. Quismundo, head, property administration (Maybank); Wilmer R. Tam, VP and head, information systems (Maybank); Ng Yek Chin, SVP and head, risk management (Maybank); Jay Joseph M. Mateo, accounting officer (Maybank); Rosario Cajicom-Bradbury, managing director (SGS Philippines); Ong Seet Joon, president and CEO (Maybank); Noli Anthony A. Ortiz, VP and head, corporate affairs; Eduardo R. Carreon, SVP and head, enterprise finance (Maybank); Luke Kah Loong, SVP and head, internal audit; Edslyn H. Castro, PR and branding officer (Maybank); and Enrique B. Jimenez, SVP and head, consumer business.



ment (Maybank); Jay Joseph M. Mateo, accounting officer (Maybank); Rosario Cajicom-Bradbury, managing director (SGS Philippines); Ong Seet Joon, president and CEO (Maybank); Noli Anthony A. Ortiz, VP and head, corporate affairs; Eduardo R. Carreon, SVP and head, enterprise finance (Maybank); Luke Kah Loong, SVP and head, internal audit; Edslyn H. Castro, PR and branding officer (Maybank); and Enrique B. Jimenez, SVP and head, consumer business.

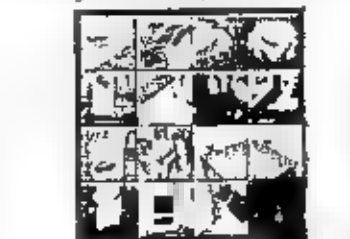
Product FILES

Integrated Marketing Communications: Make your move!

ON THE THIRD AND LATEST issue of AdEdge, the magazine offers an overview of Integrated Marketing Communications. The first few pages attempt to explain the roots of IMC and its impact on marketing practices. The main section of the issue discusses 16 of the most effective IMC campaigns in the country classified under the seven elements of IMC, namely: Advertising, Events Marketing, New Media, Direct Marketing, Public Relations, Consumer Promotions and Trade Promotions. The stories include: Rexona's First Day Funk, Coke Lights Have It All, Surf's Waisa Misis, Prudential's Buhay ang Pag-asa, Milo's Milo 40, Close-up's Lovapalooza, Century Tuna's Search for Superbodies, Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty, ABS-CBN's Interactive promos, Del Monte Kitchenomics, Avon's Company for Women, Cebu Pacific's Everyday Low Fares, PLDT's advocacy campaigns, Starbuck's cult following, Ayala malls' trade promotions, and Consolidated Distiller's



Integrated Marketing Communications



barbour promotions. Also in this issue, 10 marketing books are featured in the must-read section. Meanwhile, highlights of the events organized by the Pana board during the third quarter of the year are featured in the Pana section. AdEdge is now available at the following National Book Store branches: NBS-SM North Edsa, NBS-SM Megamall, NBS-Quezon Ave., NBS-Katipunan, NBS-Glorietta, NBS-Greenbelt, NBS-Recto, NBS-Festival Supermall, and NBS-Cubao Superbranch. For inquiries, you may contact Alyne Quinto of the Pana Secretariat at 894-0474 to 75 or 894-0012 to 13. You may also visit the Pana website at www.pana.com.ph for more details.

www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph

She also said that the 44 GMOs approved for commercial release by the BPI were carefully evaluated by experts. **Amy R. Remo**

BUSINESSFriday

CD CASES

From P200 to riches

Single mom shows grit to grow her trade

Text and Photos by Russell Arador
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY —HEEDING HER FATHER'S admonition that she should not depend on another person for a living, single mother Cynthia Baello started making handmade gift items out of scrap materials torn from her children's used notebooks. Her starting capital, P200.

That was in 1994. Today, more than a decade later, Baello's Beulah Crafts is recog-

nized as a successful entrepreneurial undertaking.

Baello, 58, said she used to go to the bank to check if she had money from her husband who was then working in Bahrain—only to find out there was none. This would send her to fits of nervous anxiety, thinking of where to get the money to pay for water and electric bills.

She told herself she did not want that kind of a life.

"Nasaan ako sa sarili ko (I pitied myself)," she said.

Her first buyers were college students who needed gift items to be given during school activities. Priced at an average of P20 per item, the students found her products affordable. Then came orders for souvenir items during nuptials, birthday celebrations and wedding anniversaries.

In no time at all, she was being asked to make homemade tissue holders out of cardboard and cloth. These became the favorite of office workers who used them as gifts during company parties.

Emboldened by the success of her products among students and office workers, she made the rounds of gift shops and offered them items for sale on a consignment basis. A store selling religious items on R Tañedo Street, Tarlac City's main business thoroughfare, gave her the much-needed opportunity to carve a market niche.

Her business prospects continued to brighten and, by sheer frugality, this mother of three

BEULAH Crafts has been recognized as a successful entrepreneurial undertaking.

FROM P200/ B2-3



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From P200 to riches

From page B2-1

was able to buy a sewing machine. She expanded her product line by making cloth bags.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) noticed her products and invited her to join trade fairs.

Prayers, loan

In the 1980s she already had a stuffed toy business, but the entry of products from China into the local market forced her to abandon her business.

Chinese products were priced so low, she said, that she, along with hundreds of other stuffed toy makers in Tarlac, could not compete and had to find other means of income.

Baello's eagerness to join her first trade fair in 2003, to be held at the SM Megamall, prompted her to revive her small business formally.

But just as she was about ready to showcase her wares, disaster struck.

She needed money not only for the raw materials for her items but also for the rental of the stall to be used in the business fair. But the loan application on which she pinned her hope was rejected.

She was near tears as she walked home. She was praying, "Lord, I lead Ninoy ako sa mga taong nutulung sa akin (Lord, please lead me to the people who can help me)."

Along the way she noticed people milling about in front of an office building on P. Tañedo Street. It was the Tarlac branch of a microfinancing organization called Alalay sa Kaulanan sa Gitnang Luzon (Asia).

Established in 1987 to "serve and empower the poor through microenterprise development," Aski is a Philippine partner of Australia-based Opportunity International, one of the world's largest microfinance organizations. The group uses the slogan, "Giving the poor a working chance."

At the time, however, Baello didn't know these things, and so she asked around until she was told to see the manager.

During her interview with the manager—which she opened by asking "Ano ho ba ang business ninyo? Pwede ho bang unutang dito? (What kind of business do you have here? Do you provide loans?)"—she told him of her situation.

The manager was immediately sympathetic and, when she asked how much she could borrow, he said she could start with P10,000.

The manager told Baello that Aski representatives would visit her. The next day they came to her house and within a week her loan was approved without any collateral.

"Character lang (It was a character loan)," she said.

Success

With fresh funds she was able to join the SM trade fair and her participation was a success.

"Dumaram ang order ko kaysa tumakbo na ang business ko (Lots of orders came and my business took off)," she said.

In 2006, she joined the "Likha ng Central Luzon (Creative Products of Central Luzon)" regional trade fair held at the SM Megamall. In that year, too, she exhibited her products in the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) Entrepreneurs' Fair in Makati City.

She was able to pay her debts from her net earnings during the three-day "Likha ng Central Luzon" exhibit. It also gave her the opportunity to establish connections not only with buyers but with other entrepreneurs as well.

If during her business' initial years she was earning a little more than P1,000 every month, then at present she was netting more than P20,000.

"Paiyakan talaga noon. Liliit-lit lang ang kita (It was truly difficult then. Profits merely tickled in)," she said.

Perhaps as a measure of her success as an entrepreneur, Baello was invited in 2006 by the East Avenue Medical Center for a lecture-demonstration on doll making and design. There, her audience of doctors and nurses bought all the products that she brought.

In November last year, Opportunity International, whose business development services (BDS) program came to her rescue years earlier through local affiliate Aski, invited her to Sydney, Australia, as a conference speaker.

Most importantly, through her small business she was able

to send all her children to school.

Asked about the keys to her success, she said: "Prayer, persistence and hard work."

Baello also recommends "listening to your customers" and "establishing good customer relations" as important ingredients to excellent business practice.

To put her business ideas be-

tween covers, she is now preparing a book tentatively titled "101 Gifts and Things You Can Make."

In an article she wrote for an online magazine, she defined a "hero" as someone who had triumphed over adversity. Wittingly or not, she was talking about herself—as a mother and an entrepreneur.



BAELLO (2nd from right) with DTI Tarlac provincial director Agnes Ramirez, Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza and Tarlac City Councilor Vladimir Rodriguez



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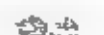
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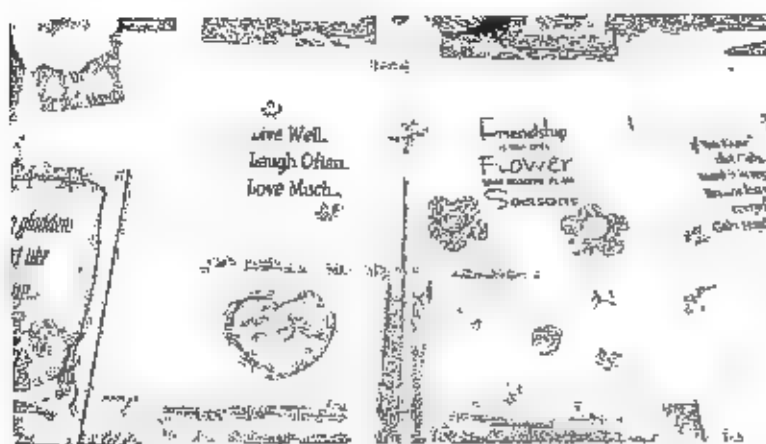
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BUSINESSFriday

Tribute to Rosario Chew, the country's 'mother of marketing research'

WE WISH TO PAUSE FROM OUR usual column format and devote this Friday to pay our respect and tribute to Rosario Chew, the acknowledged "mother of the Philippine marketing research industry." Rosie joined her Maker on Sept. 27, 2007. The senior MRx-er was one of Rosie's partners at Consumer Pulse (acquired in the early '80s by A.C. Nielsen and is now known by that name). He has written this tribute.

This tribute to Rosie Chew is not a biographical sketch. It is to acknowledge her pioneering, creative and innovative contributions to the marketing research discipline in the Philippines. While there are many such contributions I would have liked to share with our readers, let me devote our column space to two outstanding contributions.

The first was Rosie's ingenious design and persistent development of the "trade audit." This research service consists of taking a monthly inventory of FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) brands down to their SKUs (shelf keeping units) in order to estimate brand and SKU monthly sales.

This inventory-taking takes place in a representative sample of different categories of retail outlets from the big supermarket down to even the hole-in-the-wall sari-sari stores. A brand's and an SKU's monthly sales estimate from the inventorying is cross validated against the brand's sales record with the sample retail store.

The gathered data are processed to provide month by month estimates of a brand's and an SKU's monthly sales (in units and pesos), market share, out-of-stock incidence, retail pricing and margin, and others. The processed information is presented by brands, by SKUs, by brand variants, by pack sizes, by store categories, by

geographical locations and regions.

From all these, it becomes easy to imagine how huge an undertaking a valid and scientific trade audit can be.

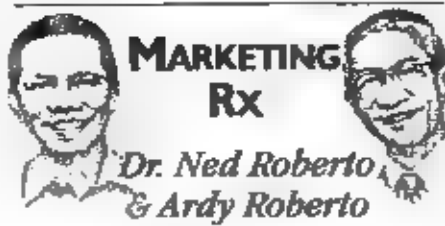
The details are immense: from the sampling of different retail stores, to getting the participation of the sampled stores, to arranging and implementing the month inventory-taking, the sales recording, data processing and tabulation, and data analysis, presentation and trending.

Allow me to recall a specific instance demonstrating what I referred to as Rosie's creative yet practical problem solution finding genius. This took place when A. C. Nielsen International made its initial offer to acquire Dealer Pulse, Rosie's company dedicated to the retail audit. One of the things that the AC Nielsen representatives questioned was the basis for the sari-sari store data validity.

I remember well what the Nielsen auditors said then: "Sari-sari stores don't issue sales receipts. So there's no solid basis for validating the inventory estimate of sales." And Rosie very candidly answered: "All sari-sari stores record their hourly and daily sales on a piece of half-sheet of ruled paper nailed or thumb-taxed on one wooden post in the store front. Now for each of the sari-sari stores in our retail panel or sample, we have persuaded the sari-sari store owner to use the carbonized half sheet that our auditor has nailed or thumb-taxed on the same post. There was no change that we asked in the way they record sales, only the recording material."

Of course, the Nielsen auditors did selective observation of the recording and found a 95 percent to 100 percent recording integrity.

Rosie actually started developing the trade audit way back in the '60s



Two or three days after, she said she found the solution to the problem through the toilet paper in her bathroom.

when the big three consumer product companies of P&G, Unilever and Colgate-Palmolive syndicated themselves to ask marketing research for such a service. It was SGV represented by Gus Macuja then who answered the call. SGV asked Rosie to lend her experience in its design and launching. The result was the "large whole-sale panel." The sample of trade outlets were not retail stores but wholesalers. This later gave way to the retail store panel.

Rosie's second demonstration of her ingenuity came when again the consumer industry, this time represented by advertiser companies and the TV network, asked for a more accurate and scientific way of monitoring TV audience's TV program ratings.

The data here helped an advertiser's investment in TV ad placements. Equally helped were the ad media

agencies in their media plan recommendations. The data were also anticipated to provide the objective basis for setting TV network statements of accounts for aired TV ads and commercials.

I will not go into the innumerable technical, statistical, pricing and negotiation problems that besieged the project at the planning, testing, launching and maintenance stages. Let me just say that Rosie capably and admirably handled each big as well as small hitches and bottlenecks that came one after the other. As in the foregoing, I will limit myself to one more instance of Rosie's pragmatic intelligence.

This happened when Rosie tried acquiring three sets of A. C. Nielsen TV meters of the '50s. She wanted a total of 330 meter boxes divided equally into 110 each for her Class AB, Class C and Class DE sample TV homes. Being just "old and obsolete stocks," we all thought the purchase would be at a really bargain price. We were wrong. The stocks of meter boxes would actually cost more than the new meter boxes. They carried a "collector items" pricing.

So Rosie decided to buy just three boxes. When these arrived, she went to Taiwan and talked to a Taiwanese engineer to produce an imitation at the 330 quantity needed. Rosie told me she was able to negotiate a price tag at less than 10 percent of the Nielsen quotation.

But this is not the exercise and show of pragmatic intelligence I was talking about. That came after some initial samples of the Taiwanese meter boxes arrived and we pre-tested them. Here was the problem.

Thus first version of the meter box had a "ticker" that recorded the TV audience data on a ticker-tape sized roll of paper. Every five minutes the

ticker punches a hole or several holes on the ticker tape paper with each hole representing that the TV set is on or off; if on, what channel it's on, etc. The trouble was that when the TV set was on and heat is accumulated inside, the ticker tape paper rolls irregularly causing the paper strip to accumulate wrinkles. As a consequence, the punched recorded data became unreadable.

I remember Rosie explaining to us the problem and then two or three days after she casually said she found the solution. She found it in the roll of toilet paper in her bathroom. She observed that when the strip of toilet paper rolled from outside facing her hand, the paper strip rolled fast and accumulated wrinkles. However, when the strip rolled facing the tile inside, that tile actually smoothen the rolling and prevented the accumulation of wrinkles. So she asked the Taiwanese engineer to make the reversal. The engineer was more than happy to report that the simple trick worked.

When she decided to retire, the two of us set up CARD (Center for Asian Research and Development), a non-profit, non-stock new generation research agency that Rosie envisioned would take care of the market research needs of the NGOs. Up to this year, Rosie led an active life including continuing with her market research engagements. In the past two years, she accepted heading the European market research Philippine office of Ipsos.

So there's our dearest Mother Rosie. We'll all miss you and I will miss her very much. Thank you, Rosie.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pdtD-SL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

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Enriching the Legacy



Market forces in the animal industry were more favorable about two generations ago. In the face of challenges, however, Univet, Thunderbird and Sarimanok (UTS) still managed to emerge as a premier institution.

At the forefront of every endeavor in the industry, the presence of UTS can be widely felt. In the hopes of igniting a positive change in the lives and livelihood of its partners, it has been discovering new forms of treatment, innovating on existing methods and even engineering the best-value products and services.

As it has done time and again in the past, driven by the spirit of "bayanihan", UTS once again comes to the aid of the animal industry, changing its corporate thrusts to address varying needs.

From United Laboratories, Univet Agricultural Products Inc., Thunderbird and Sarimanok Feeds were born. Tasked to look after the needs of animal raisers, these companies were also indirectly faced with the challenge of providing adequate food for the entire country.

Today, Univet, Thunderbird and Sarimanok (UTS) transforms into UNAHCO Nutrition & Animal Healthcare Company (UNAHCO), a company that integrates high-quality animal health and nutrition to provide a wider range of products and up-to-the-minute programs to meet the changing farm requirements and optimize economic returns.

UNAHCO aims to achieve a positive change in the animal industry by adding greater quality and value to commercial and semi-commercial farm operations all over the country.

As changes should be geared for greater improvement, UNAHCO makes sure it comes about very well equipped to do just that. Ably supported by the combined forces of the Commercial Farm Group (CFG), Univet (Veterinary lines & Vaccines), Thunderbird (Gamefowl lines), Pigrolac (Swine feeds), Sarimanok (Poultry feeds), Finfish Foods (Aquaculture), Farm Operations & Genetics, Companion Animals and even Processed Meats, UNAHCO is slated to cover all areas of endeavors like research, development and manufacturing.

In order to live up to its commitment of bringing better quality products and programs to the animal raising industry, UNAHCO makes sure it is within reach of each and every animal raiser in the country and even in the world.

Seminars, forums and trade events like Agrilink and the 1st International Farm Summit will be organized to provide venues for manufacturers to showcase their product offerings, expand their connections, and foster partnerships, and for consumers to gain new programs and methods of improving their livelihood.

Soon, UNAHCO will be able to get in touch and serve animal raisers here and around the world through the worldwide web, as it launches its new website that is designed to become a source of information, a venue for interaction and inquiry and, eventually, accommodate orders and purchases anywhere in the world.

From a local company, UNAHCO is indeed fast transforming itself into a global enterprise. Serving the needs of animal raisers from across the globe, UNAHCO is set to transform the way the animal industry works.

Despite these changes, however, the corporate culture of "bayanihan" and the timeless values of integrity, leadership, entrepreneurship, service, and family still remain. True enough, as can be inferred from its deeply embedded roots, UNAHCO is an ongoing story of success borne from a group of people united for the common good.

From a local company, UNAHCO is indeed fast transforming itself into a global enterprise

UNAHCO

Univet Nutrition & Animal Healthcare Company

For inquiries on UNAHCO, contact CFG consultants in the following areas:

Dr. Christine Ivette Andar 0928-5071966
Dr. Aldwin Bascacha 0928-507 953
Dr. Eric Amador 0920-9514972
Dr. Eric Amador 0920-9515855
Dr. Eric Amador 0920-9514962

For technical or nutritional support, contact:

Technical support: Dr. Axel Macasaet 0920-9509788
Nutritional support: Dr. Rodolfo Paner 0920-9509769

the product company had the market and also advance the raising techniques of Filipino farm owners. The greatly revealed group's ability to provide expert advice and produce premium animal products came from the Commercial Farm Group (CFG) which is composed of several intermediaries, livestock technicians, knowledgeable sales personnel who have been

UNAHCO maintains its long-standing partnership with AKEY, one of the world's leading animal health research company

UNAHCO hosts 1st International Farm Summit

UPHOLDING ITS COMMITMENT to provide a helping hand to animal raisers in the country as well as to improve swine raising technologies, Univet Nutrition & Healthcare Company (UNAHCO), the undaunted leader in the industry, has organized the first ever International Farm Summit at the Blue Leaf Events Pavilion, McKinley Hill Village, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Gathering commercial farms' product manufacturers and distributors, the summit aimed to concretize UNAHCO's desire to uplift the industry by creating a proper venue for learning while showcasing new and advanced trade practices.

Global issues and concerns that are affecting the local swine industry such as nutrition, genetics and infection were discussed by experts from UNAHCO's international partners in three separate forums.

Among the speakers were Henri Callet, the marketing and export manager of Ceetal Laboratories; Max Waldo, president of Waldo Farms USA and board chair of Waldo Genetics Phils, and Arturo Frio, the technical manager of South East Asia of Ailtech.

Other speakers were Dr. Ariel Macasaet, senior extension veterinarian of UNAHCO, and Ryan Von de Leon, senior nutritionist for Sarimanok Feeds Company Inc.

Commercial farm owners who attended the summit ex-

pressed their thanks to UNAHCO as they gained valuable knowledge and insights from the speakers, helping them to further improve and develop their swine operations.

The event also served as the formal announcement of UNAHCO as an industry partner from the three Univet companies, Univet, Thunderbird and Sarimanok Feeds Company (UTS).

As an added perk, a Purebred Yorkshire Boar, courtesy of Waldo Genetics Philippines, and a 32" Samsung LCD TV was raffled off to two very lucky delegates.

The 1st International Farm Summit is off to a good start with the overwhelming number of delegates who attended the event. To proliferate its fervor for "bayanihan", UNAHCO promises to organize similar events in the future.

'Commercial farm owners who attended the summit expressed their thanks to UNAHCO as they gained valuable knowledge and insights from the speakers, helping them to further improve and develop their swine operations'



SHOWN are (from left): Glen Ibanez, Ric Alba-OVP-GM, Max Waldo, Ritz Capili, Noel Cuyano, Ed Mapanao, Clint Escondo, Elcid Parazo.



THE Commercial Farm Group (from left): Ariel Macasaet, Elcid Parazo, Ric Alba, Kristine Ander, Henry Callet, Linda Antazo, Aldwin Biscocho.



THE UNAHCO Team



HILTON Fong, manager of Cathay farms, won the 32" Samsung Plasma TV during the First International Farm Summit, by UNAHCO.

PIGROLAC
Early Wean
IMMUNOBOOSTER
with **Immunomilk**
Nutrients

I was Scouring

Resistensiya Builder

ANG SIYENSIYA NG RESISTENSIYA

Win over competitors through Early Wean

EVERY GOOD HOG RAISER KNOWS THAT the result of having healthy and heavier pigs means higher profits, and that these results from feeding their swine early on. Either its farrow to finish or sow litter operations, the key secret is to wean the piglets early but this procedure is known to be risky since it might cause malnutrition or even death.

The sow's milk is essential to the survival of the piglets because it is responsible for the development of the immune system during the first few months after birth. The milk not only promotes resistance to diseases but also properly nourishes the piglets to make them healthy.

Fortunately for hog owners, UNAHCO developed Early Wean Immunobooster which

provides the same nutrients found in sow's milk and makes them wean early. Once weaned, sows can recover faster from birth, less time is spent on solid food adjustment of the piglets, and they gain the much needed resistance from sickness.

This complete booster is the only product that has Immunomilk Nutrients, that is composed of high levels of milk, spray dried plasma, special grade fish meal, processed cereals, refined oil, acidifiers, and other essential micronutrients that not only strengthens the pig's immune system but also its digestive organs.

Early Wean Immunobooster not only solidifies the foundation of a hale and hearty pig but it is also designed to help swine raisers gain the maximum profit from their hogs.

THE people which serve as a driving force behind UNAHCO.



UNAHCO connects to the digital realm

Animal raisers on-line with our experts

The screenshot shows the UNAHCO website interface. At the top is the UNAHCO logo with the tagline 'Univet Nutrition & Animal Healthcare Company'. Navigation links include Home, Our Company, Our Products, UNAHCO News, and Contact Us. A large banner image features a pig with the text 'To feed a growing nation and provide livelihood for the Filipino people'. Below this is a 'SEARCH BY' section with dropdown menus for Brand/Label, Category, Species Group, and Disease, along with a Search button. A 'MESSAGE FROM' section features a photo of a woman and text about the company's commitment. The 'News' section lists several articles related to weaning weight, summer comfort, and iron importance. The 'Affiliates & Related Links' section lists various partners like STCPH, AKEY, and the Department of Tourism. The 'SWINE' section highlights 'PIGROLAC EARLY WEAN SUPER START' and 'THUNDERBIRD COTRIMAZINE BAXIDIL'. The 'GAMEFOWLS' section describes a formulation for coccidiosis and other ailments. A sidebar on the right lists upcoming events like the 1st International Farm Supply and the 2007 AgriLink Fodderline Aquaculture Product Launching.

Ever since the Internet was developed, businesses established their online turf in pursuit of higher profit gains. Almost all industries in the Philippines placed their bets online and invested heavily on creating website portals, interactive ads, and all the digital world could offer except the animal feeds industry or so they thought.

Univet Nutrition and Animal Healthcare Company (UNAHCO), formerly UNILAB's Univet, Thunderbird, Sarimanok brands, is now taking the big step of leading the evolution of Filipino animal raisers to become highly knowledgeable and capable producers through the launching of UNAHCO's website - www.unahco.com.

Based on the inherent Filipino spirit of "Bayanihan", UNAHCO could now aid stock raisers by providing valuable information regarding new techniques, tips and programs, be the first to know about the introduction of ground-breaking products, and as advance as having farm-associated events shown live in the portal through webcasting.

UNAHCO.com is geared towards being an important tool for farm and animal owners all over the country, and being as pioneering as ever, there are already plans to allow farm owners from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao to connect with each other and chat online with a UNAHCO representative to place their queries live and get the response quickly, and even to the extent of allowing online order and purchase of products to be done in the website as well.

In the face of globalization, Filipino farm and animal owners should be equipped with all the tools that will enable them to be competitive worldwide and with UNAHCO.com, the playing field is now leveled for our local stock producers to compete.

Whip out pig worms with Latigo 1000

LATIGO-1000 SINGLE DOSE



PIG. HOG. SWINE. BOAR. Whatever they are called, this livestock have one common enemy - worms. Hog raisers are used to the process of eliminating this nuisance from their pigs every now and then to prevent them from affecting their profits. These pests normally just reside in the swine's intestines and the usual dewormer could eliminate it out of their system. Unfortunately, not all the worms are taken out since these worms are capable of transferring to other organs such as the lungs, kidneys, and liver to name a few, and there are also types that are not taken out by the ordinary dewormer formula.

Understanding this dilemma, UNAHCO known for its pioneering veterinary products, developed a new formulation called Latigo 1000. With a single dose from this dewormer, Latigo 1000 is a sure fire way to re-

move bothersome worms from hogs because it not only kills fully developed worms but also slays the worms in larval stages as well.

The driving component in this worm-eliminator is Levamisole which is proven to be effective against 7 types of worms namely large roundworms, intestinal threadworms, whipworms, nodular worms, lung worms, kidney worms,

and stomach worms, and as an added benefit it is also known to be an immunostimulant that promotes fast recovery of infested pigs.

Aside from the intrinsic prowess of Latigo 1000, it also takes out the fasting period required by other deworming products which only weakens the swine even further.

With Latigo 1000, you've got healthy pigs, and peace of mind.

'Latigo-1000 Single Dose is tough on worms, but gentle on pigs. Just one dose will do. No need to repeat. No need for fasting'

PATAY, TUNAW, TANGGAL KANG BULATE KA!

The advertisement features a woman in traditional Filipino clothing standing next to a pig. The text 'PATAY, TUNAW, TANGGAL KANG BULATE KA!' is written in large, bold letters. Below this, the product name 'LATIGO-1000 SINGLE DOSE' is repeated. At the bottom, there is a small image of the Latigo 1000 product packaging and a block of text in Filipino: 'ISANG GABAY SA BAWAT BULOG ISANG DIBAYAN LANG, SI WA KAILANGAN ULITIN AFTER 10 DAYS. PATAY, TUNAW, TANGGAL ANG LAMAY NG BULOG NG BULATE. ONE LATIGO, ALL BULATE ARE.' The date 'October 5, 2007' is also visible.

 <p>14th International Agribusiness Exhibition and Seminars</p>	 <p>8th International Food Processing, Packaging and Products Exhibition</p>	 <p>3rd National Fisheries Exhibition and Seminars</p>
<p>Theme: Value-Adding and Market Alliances to Increase Farm Income</p>		

4-6 OCTOBER 2007
Show Hours: 10 am - 6 pm
World Trade Center Pasay City, Philippines

UNAHCO partners with Agrilink

TO HELP MARKET ITS PRODUCTS, MEET prospective clients and get updated on recent developments in agricultural technologies, UNAHCO (Univet Nutrition and Animal Healthcare

Company) is joining Agrilink, Foodlink and Aqualink 2007, the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international trade show on agribusiness slated on October 4 to 6 at the World

Trade Center, Pasay City.

Catering to both local and foreign participants, Agrilink features trade exhibits, retail selling, technical seminars, cooking demonstrations and

outdoor exhibits of live animals and greenhouses, in the hopes of reliving festive "market encounters" among guests and participants.

"Activities like this help us realize our mission of bayanihan," Ric C. Aiba, UNAHCO operations vice president and general manager said.

Experts from the swine industry like Von de Leon of SFCI and Dr. Ruth Sonaco, ITCP, will conduct seminars from 1 to 3 p.m. on October 5. Apart from these, visitors and participants will also be treated to a special kind of entertainment during the "Una Ako sa UNAHCO" program where several prizes will be at stake.

More than this, the affair will also serve as a medium to launch UNAHCO and showcase its new line of products which include Latigo 1000 single dose, Microban, Early Wean IB and SS (with Pro Bio Plus), Farm Nutritionals (CFG launching) for the Swine Category, and Thunderbird Successor, GMP and Pusham under the Gamefowl category.

"Activities like this help us realize our mission of bayanihan," Ric C. Aiba, UNAHCO operations vice president and general manager said.

As the event is one with the company's desire to provide a venue for animal raisers to discover new products and advanced methods in the business, UNAHCO formerly known as Univet, Thunderbird and Sarmanok.

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Chowking Merienda Sets

Ganito kasarap. Ganito ka-affordable.

P 39 P 49

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

THE DAILY INQUIRER



Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

NOTHING BUT THE SAT



Contributing editors
Apple Abern-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson
aspouse the fight
against breast

Two's company
Billy and Matteo wear Swatch
Iremy The Chrome, Real Man.

Goodfellas

IN SUPPORT OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
FASHION WILL BE THE ADVOCACY'S PINK COLOR THIS YEAR, AS WELL AS HER USUAL
RESPONSIBLE FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY THE CAUSE FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF OCTOBER

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Let's begin our friendly connections

With SMART's life enhancing wireless innovations, being one of the 27 million subscribers on the SMART network gets even better. The new SMART Connect offers four quick and convenient ways to get information and customer care services all day, everyday. With SMART Connect, you have the freedom to choose how to obtain the information and get the service that you need. And because you're no longer limited to a single access point, customer service and information are now faster, easier and more direct. All these only from the leader in innovation, SMART!

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Swatch boys Billy Crawford and

Matteo Guidicelli

are soul brothers



Pair-feet!

Billy and Matteo in colorful Swatch cuff watches



It's time

Billy in Swatch Fun Boarder, Face the Mountain



Speedster

Matteo dons the Swatch Fun Boarder, Cutoffless.

Good fellas

INTERNATIONAL SINGER BILLY Crawford and race-car driver Matteo Guidicelli couldn't be more different than night and day. While 25-year-old Billy comes across as the stereotypical tattooed bad-boy in funky clothing, 17-year-old Matteo appears to be the boy-next-door, with an easy charm and a preppy style.

But looks can really be deceiving, it seems. Underneath all the physical trappings, both celebrities are actually very much alike. Both are grounded and unaffected and, fortunately, blessed with very supportive families that have guided them along the glamorous but sometimes rocky path of show biz and stardom.

Billy started doing commercials at the tender age of three and has been in the entertainment business for 22 years. Matteo, on the other hand, started racing, endorsing clothing brands and doing the occasional TV show—when he was all of 11 years. The two met through Virgie Ramos, whom they fondly call Tita Virgie, when she asked both boys, heartthrobs in their own right, to be part of her ever-growing, ever-popular Swatch Family.

Besides the inclination for movement and speed that they obviously share, both boys also possess admirable work ethics that keep them focused.

"I'm a hard worker. I'm very passionate about what I do. I wake up in the morning and all I can think about is work, especially when there are a lot of things going on. But I work better under pressure, and whatever I have to deal with, I love it, it's a challenge I'm always here to take," said Billy.

Meanwhile, Matteo said, "I'm a very normal kid. I go to school every day, and on weekends I have races. After school, I do shoots and stuff like that. Basically, it's mostly school for now. It's my senior year in Brent so I have to concentrate. Next year, I'll be going to the US for college."

They obviously share a fondness for each other as well. Said Billy about Matteo, "He's a good kid. He's mature for his age actually. I've had conversations with him and he's always eager to learn a lot of things."

"Billy's cool. He's really nice. Spoke to him about a lot of stuff and I've been asking him to teach me to dance. He hasn't taught me yet but hopefully soon," said Matteo.

Matteo's 'moves'

The easy banter between the two boys was charming, indeed. When asked if he thought Matteo could dance, Billy joked, "I haven't seen him dance but Matt knows a lot of girls. He has moves that way."

How their lives merge as celebrities, and now as friends, is the inspiration for this fashion editorial that brings together Merger, a homegrown but globally appealing brand of men's suits, and Swatch.

With the help of ace lensman Jun de Leon and top stylist Miller Arzaga, both boys were shot jumping, dancing and sometimes just standing still, wearing what they would typically wear until, finally, they take on each other's personalities and styles, as most friends do. And although the boys really couldn't be more different, the fact that they are both intrinsically good shone through every step of the way.

Catch Billy Crawford in his first ever major concert here in Manila, "It's Time," Oct. 6, 8.30 p.m., at Araneta Coliseum.

Swatch is at Glorietta 4, SM Megamall Bldg. B, Trinoma Mall, and is available in the following Swatch kiosks: SM North Edsa, Robinsons Ermita, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival Mall, Sta. Lucia, V Mall, SM Mall of Asia and Ayala Cebu.

Merger is at Glorietta 3, SM Megamall and Trinoma.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Power of two
Billy and Matteo don Swatch Irony Diaphane Chrono in Full Blooded Silver.



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



Andy Warhol POP COLLECTION

"In the future, everybody will be world-famous for 15 minutes." This unorthodox line was coined by Andy Warhol, acknowledged as one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century.

Now, you can get your own share of 15 minutes of fame—and more—with a new exciting line of limited edition watches, the Andy Warhol Pop Collection.

Featuring artworks from Warhol's early days as a fashion illustrator and which laid the foundation for the Pop Culture movement that challenged the world to see art differently, the Pop Collection brings with it imagination, confidence and creativity.

These ground-breaking designs are integrated into the Pop Collection, pushing the boundaries of art and redefining the relevance of the visionary pop artist.

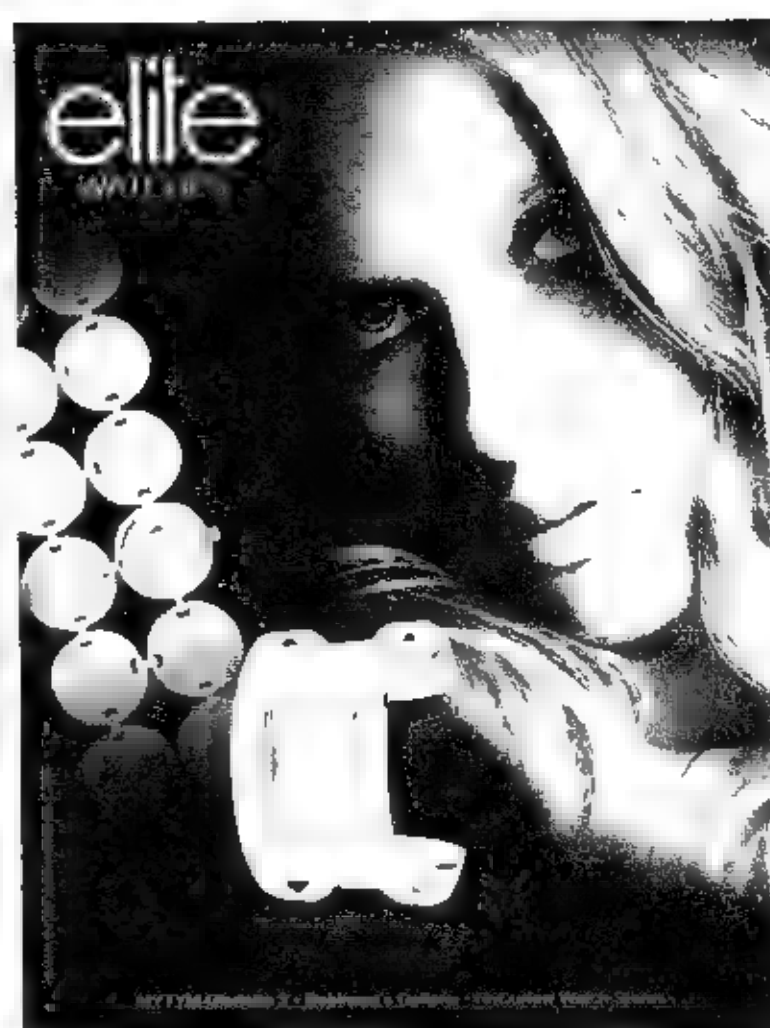
The collection blends Warhol's tongue-in-cheek brand of humor, his playful use of zany colors and his ironic nonchalance, all in the name of stylish accessorizing.

All of the whimsical watches in the collection feature aluminum or plastic injection cases styled with Andy Warhol's distinctive signature, genuine leather straps, stainless steel deployment buckles, exclusive detailed crowns, bonus Warhol patch and cool Pop Collection packaging.

Each is definitely a collectible must-have, whether you're a fun and free-spirited bohemian, a style-savvy artist-type or an independent-thinking newswoman who dares to stand out and break free from the crowd.

It's high time to be in your 15 minutes of fame, art, innovation, fun, creativity and more with the Andy Warhol Pop Collection!

Andy Warhol watches are exclusively available at MYTVM Glorietta 3 and selected No Quarter Watch Stores.





Zunic tells

How to slip into that little black dress...for now and always!

A little black dress is a short, simple evening or cocktail dress, popularized in the 1920s by the fashion designer Coco Chanel. Its ubiquity is such that many refer to it by acronym, LBD. Chanel's dress was designed to not show stains and to fit every woman, as Coco believed that fashion should be functional. Audrey Hepburn elevated the "little black dress" to classic status in the movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961).

The "little black dress" is considered by many women to be an essential part of a complete wardrobe. It is a well-known "rule of fashion" that every woman should own a simple, elegant black dress that can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion. If you want it chic, if you want it glamorous, if you want it classic, you can never go wrong with black!

Thanks to Zunic, you can now fit into that little black dress for now and always. And in as little as 45 minutes! Just in time for that special dinner date or that gala premiere.

Shape your body today without exercise, dieting, pills, injections, or painful surgery.

So before you go out and buy this coming season's fashion, drop by Zunic first. You'll be astounded to discover how everything you try on starts to look good on you.

Visit us today. Consultations are free, and are held in strict confidence.

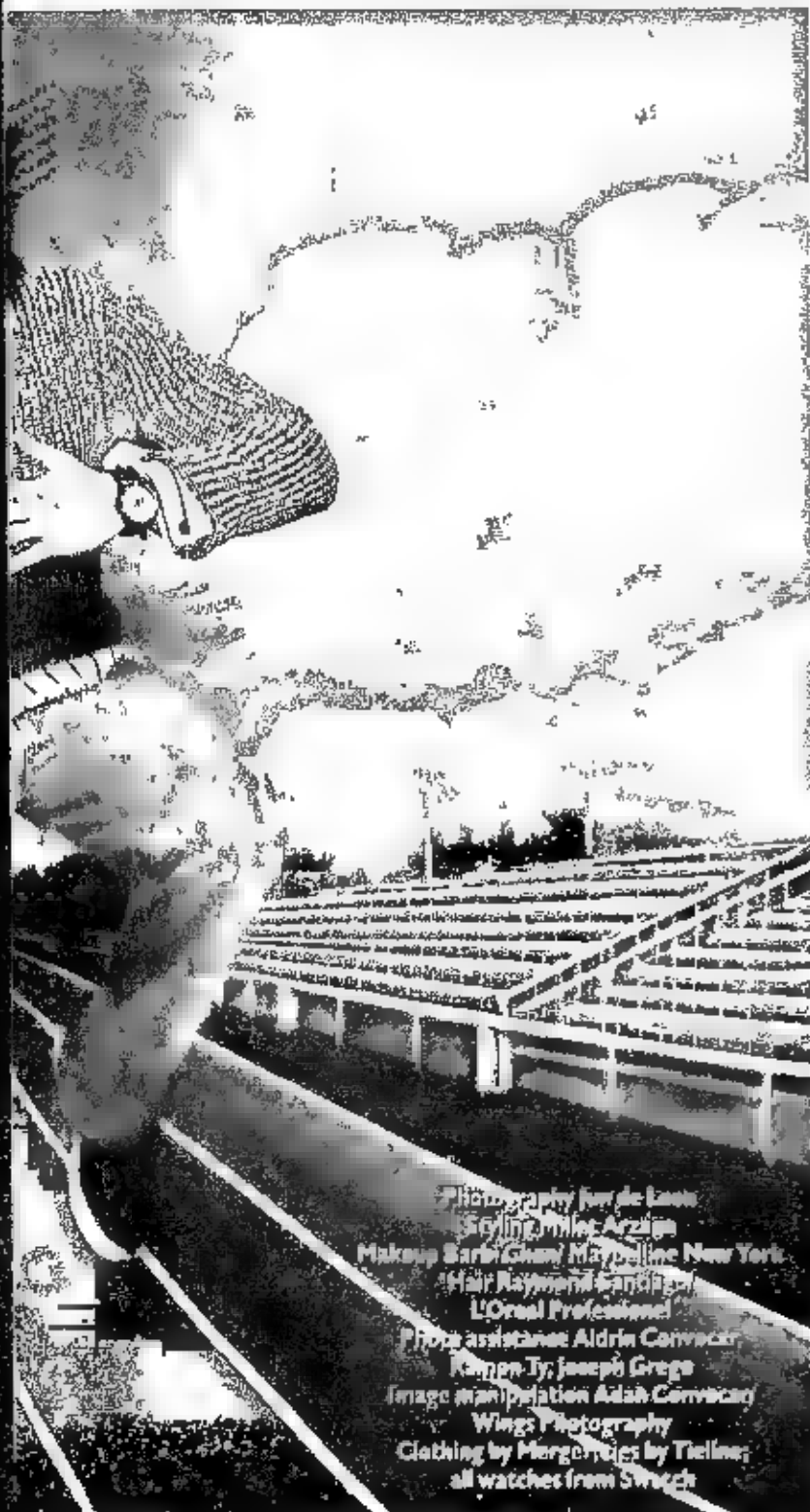
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Photography: Jun de Leon
Styling: Miller Arzaga
Makeup: Sarah Chan, Maybelline New York
Hair: Raymond Santiago, L'Oréal Professional
Photo assistants: Aldrin Calveira
Runner-Up: Joseph Grege
Image manipulation: Adah Combariza
Wings Photography
Clothing by: Merger, designed by Tielina, all watches from Swatch

Hey, sport

Adidas Originals and Adidas Stella McCartney infuse classy chic into athletic wear

THIS FALL/WINTER ADIDAS Originals presents a contemporary and holistic collection that upholds youthful individualism and edge.

Divided into various main themes for women this season, the collection finds a perfect fit for characters whose creativity, attitude and spirit are bold as they are unconventional.

The innate glitz and glamour of the trefoil perfectly captures the beauty and charm of actresses/hosts/models Bianca King, Nancy Castiglione, Chesca Garcia, Iya Villania, and Angel Aquino.

VJ-host Iya Villania's self-described "laid back" personal style shines through whenever she's tending to her hosting or endorsing duties. Her outfits of choice are sporty pieces that make her feel sexy and allow

movement.

For the sporty femme always wanting to look fashionable, the high-end fashion designer Stella McCartney designs a special collection for women who take their sport and style seriously. Expect Adidas by Stella McCartney to offer revolutionary products that push the edge of fashion while enhancing the entire sports workout.

Model, actress, TV host, and mother, Angel Aquino embraces the lifestyle line of Adidas but also holds the sports line in high regard. This critically acclaimed actress describes her fashion sense as "not too dressed up" and affirms that she would rather go for comfort, but should marry well with style.

Playful

Chesca Garcia also has basic rules when it comes to fashion. Adidas helps Chesca keep her look playful with vibrantly colored tops and bottoms. Chesca also loves

the multi-functional appeal of the Adidas apparel. "You can have a yoga top that you can accessorize for going out," she said.

Adidas used to mean strictly athletic wear for her, but Nancy Castiglione said she has become a convert to the brand's lifestyle reputation. Nancy's passion for diving and snorkeling also fits with the Adidas aesthetic, "because I get to wear their cute little shorts and tank tops that are very comfortable as well."

Actress and water sports enthusiast Bianca King also appreciates the style and flexibility that Adidas offers. She feels she can always make a splash by wearing the brand. An avid music lover, her varied musical taste keeps in synch with the various looks that can be found in Adidas.

You, too, can break ground and create a unique style with the newest Adidas Fall/Winter 2007 Originals and Stella McCartney Collection.

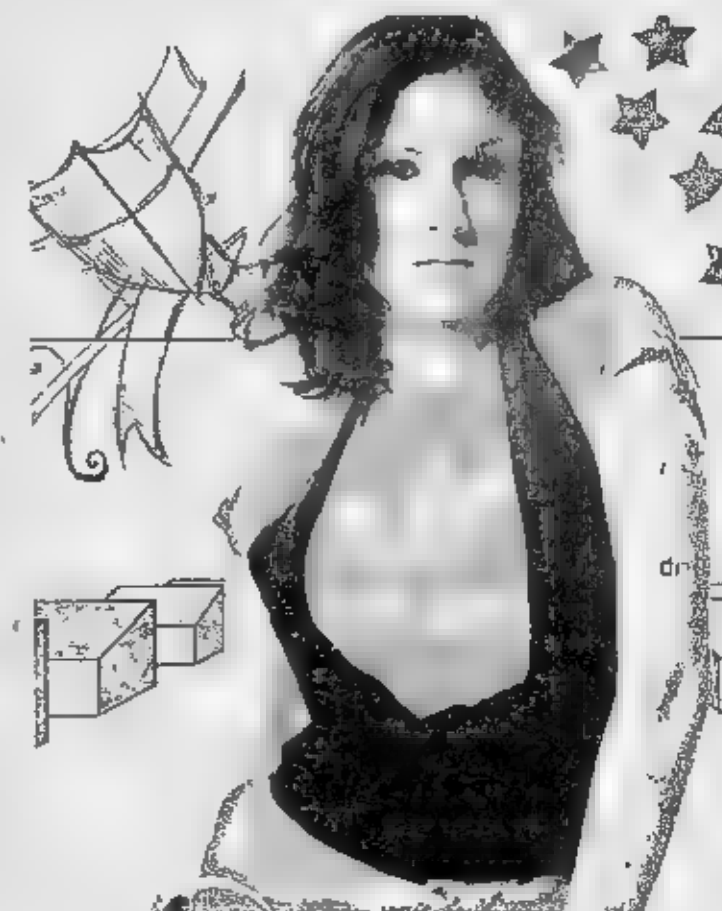
The Adidas Originals line is available at select Adidas Sport Performance stores at leading malls nationwide and at the Adidas Originals concept satellite store at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Shopping. Adidas Stella McCartney available in select Adidas Sport Performance Stores at G/F, Greenbelt 3; 5/F, Shangri-La Plaza; 2/F, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, and 2/F, Trinoma.

Chesca dons Adidas red and white printed T-shirt with an asymmetrical V-neck and white Originals shoes with red details

2/F, Trinoma



Nancy dons Adidas Originals cream nylon hooded jacket from the Missy Elliot Respect M.E line



Bianca is clad in Adidas Originals bright red tee with trefoil logo

Angel wears Adidas Stella McCartney white track pants and short-sleeve silver zip jacket with neon yellow accents



Iya wears Adidas track jacket in black and white details with dragon patch together with Adidas Goodyear Originals

In tune with life's music

It is in the music scene where changes are instantly felt and celebrated. Here, revolutions start at the riff of the guitar, the crash of a cymbal or the pounding of the bass.

With the emergence of music trends such as MTV, music has evolved to become more of a lifestyle. It became a much bigger part of daily life and a more powerful driving force in our society



And for generations of music lovers and enthusiasts, something as creatively complex and mysteriously moving as music is still best experienced first-hand.

Leading her own quiet renaissance, singer Sitti Navarro brought sexy rhythms of Bossa Nova — without much noise but with whole lots of charm. Her presence in a music scene mostly dominated by loud rock is nothing less than a breath of fresh air. But Sitti's no revivalist — her music is one that sounds as modern as ever. "I love how it accepts all music formats," she says, "When you're busy, that's when the Nseries comes to the rescue. It has a huge memory, too."

Sitti

It isn't surprising to

find that the Nokia Nseries appeals to an artist like Sitti — for whom innovation means updating, and not disregarding, the past. "I listen to more music now and I don't limit myself to only Bossa Nova," she says, "I listen to all kind of music...I've taken quite a liking to classical music, but different kinds of music help me in my performances, on how to approach a song."

"Bossa Nova though, never fails to relax me," says Sitti, "Singing's not only a form of self-expression for me, but also prayer."

"I'm almost always on the go," she says, "The Nseries phone makes music accessible anytime. I can just put in whatever music or songs that I want and voila! I'm all set and ready to go."

The Nseries' all-in-one capability is a big plus for Sitti. "It has a huge memory, it's like an mp3 phone already!" she says. "It's easily managed, plus four music formats are acceptable! When you're busy and don't have the time to convert music to acceptable formats, that's when the Nseries comes to the rescue!"

For Kijwan frontman Marc Abaya, rock and roll is about bringing a sense of danger to the performance. A passionate and tireless performer, he

is undoubtedly one of his generation's most dynamic singers who make it a point to bring raw emotion and attitude to his singing — an attitude that isn't confined to the stage.

A filmmaker and actor as well, his choice of the Nseries is based on his demand for technology that can keep up with him. He recognizes that it's essential as a tool these days, but he doesn't agree that one should adjust their lives to it. "It has to be in tune with me," he says

In short, it's got to keep up

"The Nseries is just perfect," says Marc, "It fits well with the kind of life I have, just like my PC"

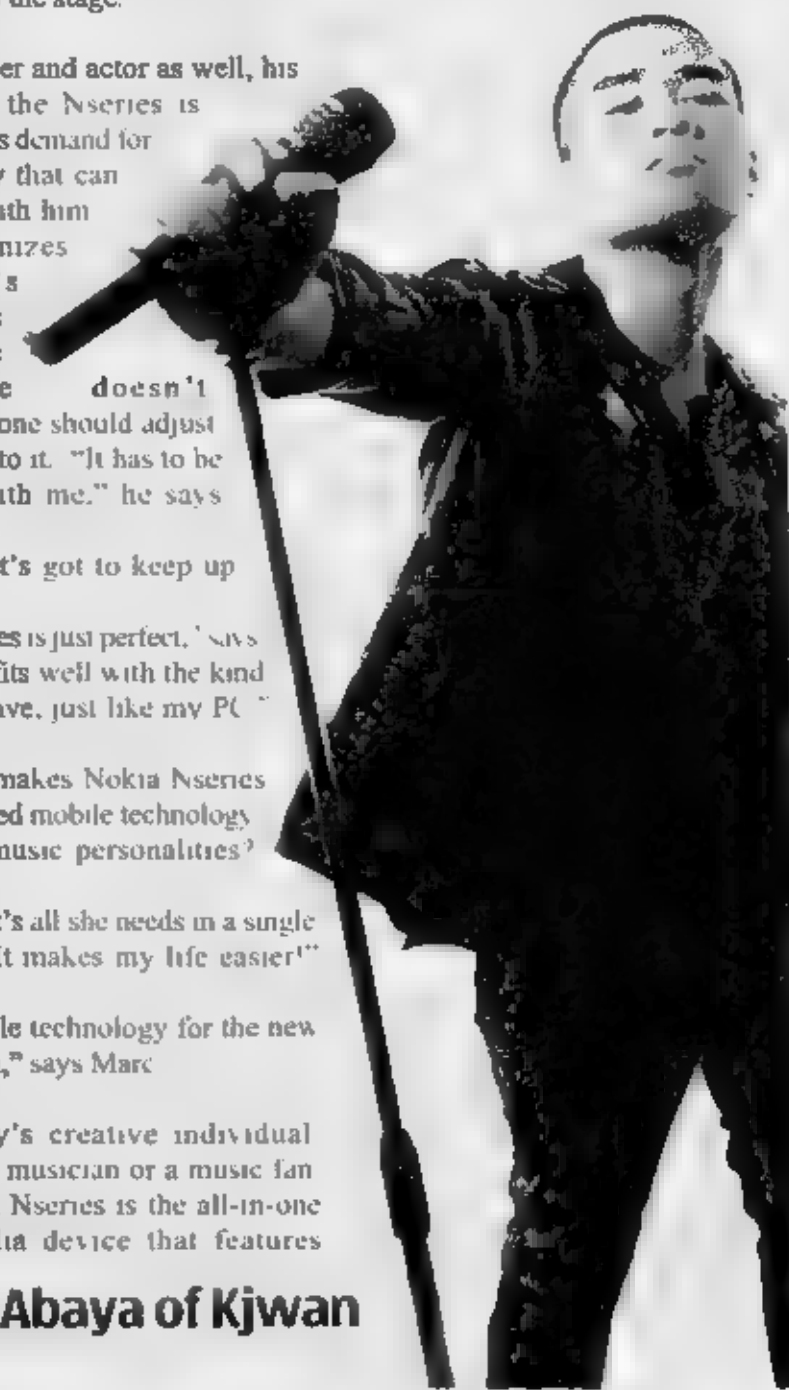
So, what makes Nokia Nseries the preferred mobile technology of these music personalities?

For Sitti, it's all she needs in a single phone. "It makes my life easier!"

"It's mobile technology for the new generation," says Marc

For today's creative individual whether a musician or a music fan the Nokia Nseries is the all-in-one multimedia device that features

Marc Abaya of Kijwan



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Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LIFESTYLE

Fashion deadline: New York

IT WAS TIME TO RECHARGE my batteries, so off I jetted to Holland, via KLM, which gets you to Amsterdam, direct from Manila nonstop, in just 12 short flying hours, dahlings. I arrived super-relaxed and excited.

After a three-day stopover in the north of Holland, we were off again on KLM's short seven hour, 30-minute flight to my favorite city in the U.S. of A. New York, natch!

The city that never sleeps was totally wide awake for the awesome Fashion Week

WITHOUT
BATTING
AN EYELASHMaurice
ArcachePhotos by Alex Van Hagen
using Kodak EasyShare

Spring-Summer 2008 Collection. I was guest of a close pal, New York Restaurant School, culinary

genius Lorrie Reynoso, no less. I was invited to NY by adorable Reggie Aguinardo, Rustan's sourcing and buying director. Fashion & Specialty Department Tyrrell. Limited U.S. of A. made sure that we get to see several of the wow collections, palangas. This wasn't in my agenda at all, but who could refuse such an offer, n'est ce pas?

It was almost pandemonium when we got to the Roseland Theater at Times Square for the mind-boggling show of the gorgeous Kimora Lee Simmons. A former mega-model, who started at 16 modeling for Giorgio Armani and Fendi, later becoming the favorite muse of Karl Lagerfeld, no less, has started her own collections, which have become a success.

For this year alone, she has made \$800 million in sales, and the year ain't even over yet, dahlings. She is married to Russell Simmons, billionaire record producer. So it was no wonder to see tons of hip-hop celebrities present when Kimora unveiled her Baby Phat collection.

From beginning to end, it was glam and more glam, palangas. The collection started with beach wear, which was enough to blow your socks off and make a gay man turn straight. She played with hot colors and materials. She also employed cool whites.

Then it became ultra glam for her KLS evening wear. This really got the thousand or so buyers and press personas from all over the world out of their seats and applauding almost every number on the ramp. She showed elegant evening gowns in chiffon, draped and sometimes even layered, perfect for any red-carpet gala. She also showed sexy cocktail dresses.

She played with colors such as aqua with canary yellow, emerald with peacock blue, bright pink with greens, sunset colors with purple.

The result? A standing ovation when Kimora took her bow with her two pretty young daughters in tow.

Mo! noticed, it was a short 25-35 minute show, which was the order of the day for all the shows that week. Another thing that

FASHION/D2



SINGER Mary J. Blige



MOI with the woman of the hour Vivienne Tam

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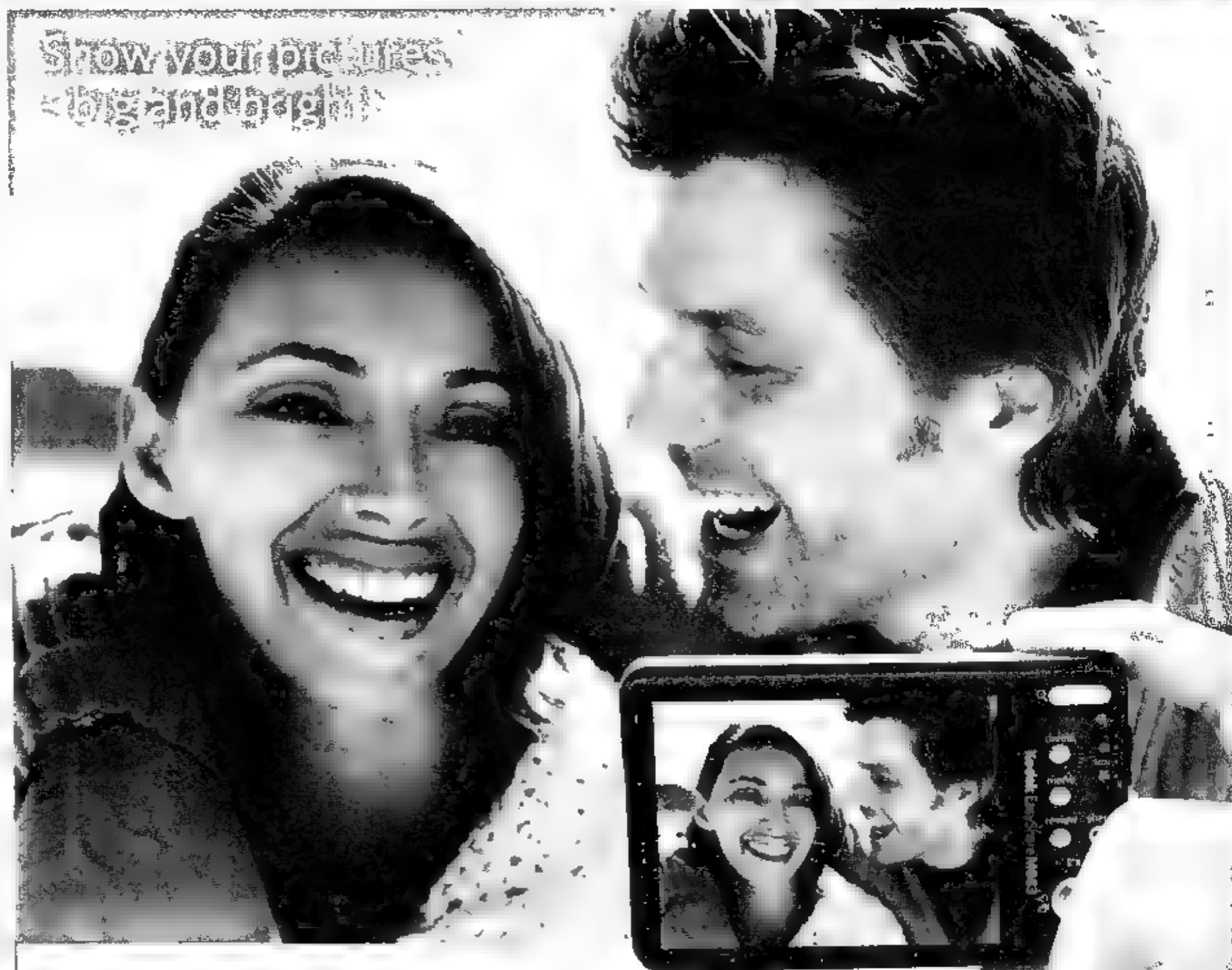
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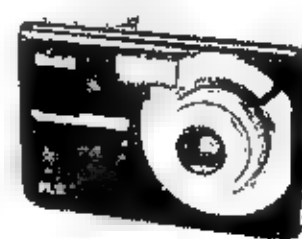


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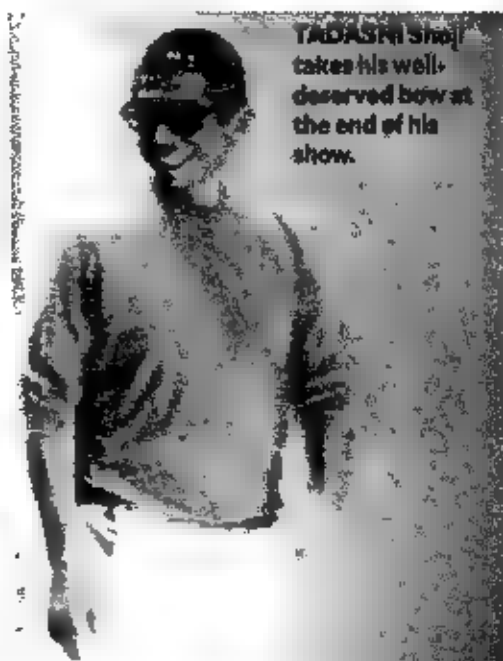
PHOTOGRAPHER Alex Van Hagen



NEW York-based mega achievers Lorrie Reynoso and Reggie Aguinaldo at the V. Tam Show



MAGGIE Gyllenhaal, Hilary Swank and Demi Moore at the Miss Sixty Show at the Tent Show



TADASHI Shoji takes his well-deserved bow at the end of his show

Fashion dateline: New York

From page D1

was tres obvious was that the collections showed awesome colors. After all, black can only go so far, palanggas

Vivienne Tam

The next night, it was the turn of the adorably nice and talented Vivienne Tam to show off her collection. The show was held in time for the grand opening of her tres chic new flagship 2,200-sq ft store, at Soho's No. 40 Mercer St.

No one was allowed into the new store before 6:30 p.m. For the meantime, we waited outside, completely enthralled by 100 gorgeous gals, obviously models. Their hair was tied back in a low pony-tail style. They were dressed in Chairman Mao's gray uniform with mirrors on the top of the jacket's collar, designed by Tam. No smile on their faces which had min.mum makeup. All of this just made us keep staring at them.

At the designated time, the doors opened and voila! there were three stages inside the store where models wore the latest evening, cocktail and all-white day and afternoon collections.

Her cocktail collection was shimmering with the colors of the rainbow; it was presented on one stage. The other stage were her glam and classy cocktail and evening outfits that had shades of black, beige, and white, while on the third stage, eight gorgeous models were dressed in white, with touches of embroidery for day, afternoon, and night wear.

And let's not forget Tam's shoe line. It was as eye-catching as her clothes, designed with that chic 1947 look, worn by the gorgeous actresses of that decade.

What a relief for us to be able to mingle with the other buyers, the press and celebrity clients who all came in full fashionable force, palanggas.

The best part was that the brilliant designer of the hour, Vivienne Tam, was there mingling with all the guests. She answered questions, and allowed herself to be interviewed and photographed. She chatted with the guests, like, forever.

Now that's style, dahlings. She chatted with us for almost 15 minutes, while the paparazzi kept clicking their



VIVIENNE TAM 2008 evening wear collection



THE PERMANENT Tent at Bryant Park where most of the collections were shown during Fashion Week

cameras, like, forever.

Breezing in late-ish were popular couple Rico and Tina Maristela Ocampo. What a surprise to see them. So before you could bat an eyelash, I grabbed Tina by the arm and shoved our way to Vivienne, who immediately smiled and talked to her about her in-demand chic handbags, that could be found at New York's most upscale department stores.

This world-class designer is designing the uniforms for the employees of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel opening in Beijing in time for the 2008 Summer Olympics in China.

Shoji show

It was a packed room at the gorgeous show of Japanese wizard Tadashi Shoji at Bryant Park Tent, dahlings.

Reggie A. made sure we got first-row seats.

The collection was inspired by colors from clear tropical waters and coral gardens.

The 90 models sashayed but in a fast pace for the fantastic 35-minute show of night and ball gown wear. The clothes came in natural dyes, with delicate fabrics pleated, layered and beaded for the evening outfits, in mind-boggling shades of Aegean blue-orange. No wonder the VIP fashion-watchers later gave the shy-ish Tadashi Shoji a standing ovation.

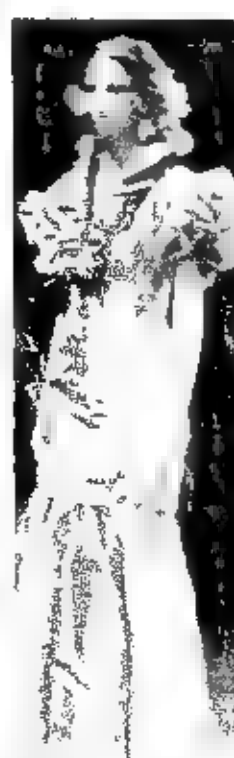
De la Renta, Herrera

The shows of Oscar de la Renta and Carolina Herrera, held on separate days also at Bryant Park Tent, were the height of chic and class.

De la Renta's models paraded in suits, jackets and flowing gowns dripping with



A TADASHI Shoji ball gown



GORGEOUS beige silk taffeta dress from Tadashi S.

ultra-luxe touches, from embroidery for afternoon wear to shimmering cocktail outfits, to ball gowns, feathered hats and snake-skin sandals.

I got the chance to talk to the designer in Spanish and during the conversation he said he knew Madame Imelda Marcos, and also asked me if Spanish was still spoken in the Philippines. Sadly, not said no.

Carolina Herrera's collection was inspired by lush watercolors, and shades of ivory, black, beige and luscious peony, coral and brick red. Really, this elegant designer is in a class all her own, dahlings.

Anna Sui's funky, punky show was straight out of the streets of London. It was clear that she was having loads of fun for spring and summer of 2008.

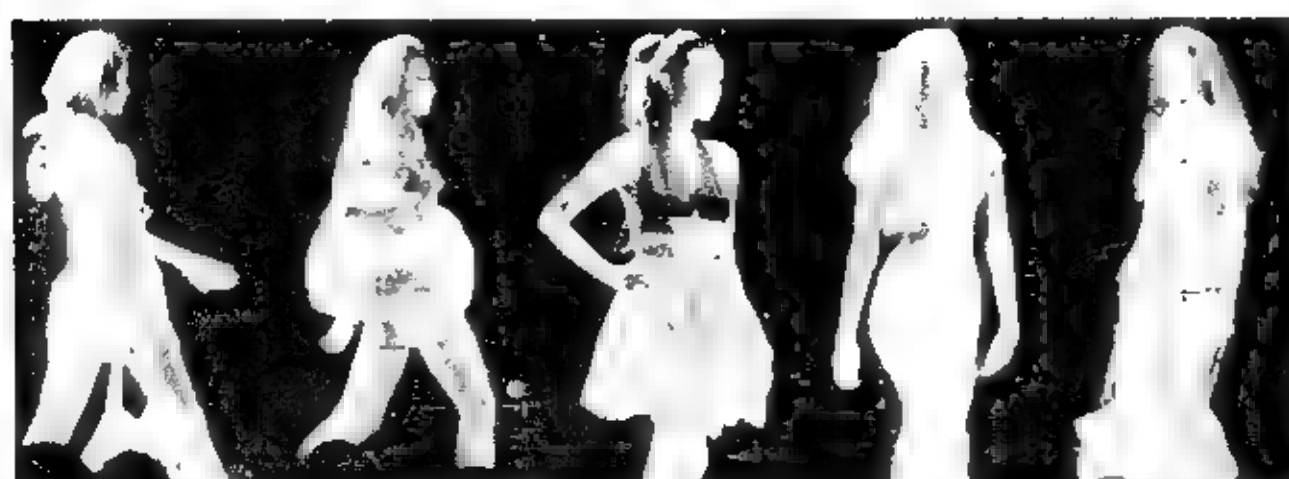
The controversial show of Marc Jacobs started 2 1/2 hours late. It had many in the audience stomping off, including moi for a bite to eat. His die-hard followers stayed on.

Jacobs opened his show with a farewell wave and a bow, which is usually done at the finale. Then his models walked in backward, would you believe, and made the exit the norma. way.

To quote the man Bergdorf Goodman, "As long as I've been in the business, I have never seen a day so long." Cathy Horyn. "I think he's worth the wait and the glam." Victoria Beckham. "I went and had dinner with friends. His collection was cool."

It was my first-ever Fashion Week, thanks to Reggie Aguinaldo. Timed during my New York vacation, it taught me one thing, dahlings: the international rag trade is one big rat race.

That week of glorious fashion was elegantly sponsored by the sleek Mercedes-Benz, while the in-demand M&C Chandon poured endlessly, leaving everyone bubbly for a whole week, palanggas



FAB beach wear, HUGE beach bags are part of the look, AFTER-SIX dress, COOL sun shades in chiffon, COLORFUL afternoon outfit, COCKTAIL outfits by V. Tam

GOINGS ON

Annual Christmas bazaar slated Oct. 28

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MANILA presents its annual Christmas bazaar Oct. 28 at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in Greenbelt, Makati. With its theme "The Best Gifts for Christmas," this major fundraising activity supports WCM's various community charity and service-oriented projects like its feeding program, sewing, therapeutic massage and computer training for out-of-school youth and housewives and its convalescence pavilion at the National Center for Mental Health. Call WCM Secretariat at 5249914 or 5221864.

DECORATE YOUR CAKE MALL TOUR. Goldlocks introduces the "Decorate Your Cake Mall Tour." Parents and kids can participate in an on-the-spot cake decorating

contest, explore a cookie house village exhibit, and join other exciting activities. Goldlocks NYC Mall Tour schedule is: Oct. 6, SM City Fairview; and Oct. 13, SM City North EDSA. Let the whole family have a fun weekend through Goldlocks NYC.

NEW OFFER. Sun Cellular will help broaden your circle of friends or even bring your romance through its new mobile chat offer, Sun frendclub. The new service lets subscribers join a chat room using their mobile phones instead of computers. Chatting is done through the short message service or SMS. The service is fun, safe and easy. Interested subscribers can simply text FRENDCLUB to 2939 using a Sun mobile phone to register, giving their age group, nickname or "alias." Once

registered, text MENU to find friends/partners, view the Buddy List or enter a chatroom. Registration is free until Nov. 17 (tel. 3958800; 200, Sun mobile; <http://www.suncellular.com.ph> www.suncellular.com.ph).

THE CENTENNIAL AWARDS Committee of the St. Scholastica's School of Music and the St. Scholastica's Music Alumnae jointly announced through its chairpersons Sr. Mary Vincent Feliciano, OSB, and Aleli Bautista, respectively the awards for Music. The awarding ceremonies will be held during the Tertulia on Oct. 7. The Tertulia is a project of St. Scholastica's Music Alumnae Association headed by Priscilla F. Sison. Outstanding Music Centennial Awards: Sr. Mary Placid

Abejo, OSB; and Dr. Lucezia R. Kasilag.

NEW TRAVEL MAGAZINE. Travelife, the country's newest travel magazine, will have a launch party today, Oct. 5. Publisher and Tridem Asia Publishing, Inc. president Christine Cunanan says the magazine is about people "living wonderful lives in the sense of learning new things and discovering more about themselves in the process." Liza Iliarte is editor. (tel. 8922620, www.travelife.biz)

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE holds alumnae homecoming. The 2007 Grand Alumnae Homecoming of Stella Maris College, Quezon City is on Saturday, Oct. 6 at the SMC School Grounds on Cambridge St. Cubao.



LADIES of Venture 7 will hold the first of its three bazaars on Oct. 7, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental. The bazaar will feature unique items. Main beneficiaries will be the Makabata Foundation and the Virjanie Foundation. From left, Fortune Ledesma, Lita Gelano, Chit Gohu, Fanny Blanco. Standing from left, Pilie Barrenachea, Celine Bautista and Linda Villadelgado. Their next bazaars will be held on Nov. 10 at the Renaissance Hotel and on Dec. 2 at the Hotel Intercontinental. Call 8439507, 8150669 and 0915-7885109.

All Stella Maris College graduates from 1955 to 2006 are invited to attend this event. Registration starts at 3 p.m.

The 2007 SMC Grand Alumnae Homecoming is hosted by this year's Silver Jubilarians, HS Class of 1982.

It seemed like a constellation fell from the sky when Facial Care Centre celebrated its 25th year at the Ayala Museum last September 28. It was indeed a beautiful night full of enchanting faces that came to party and cheer on the Silver year of their favorite skincare center.

Branded as "XXV: The Beauty Event," the grand Anniversary bash was a smashing success. No other than the charming Boy Abunda, who has been a close ally of Facial Care Centre, livened up the program and entertained guests with his spontaneous and unguarded flair for hosting.

With guests treated to a red-carpet entrance, the venue instantly transformed into a sea of alluring beauties. The party was well-attended by Manila's most sought-after names in lifestyle, business and entertainment sectors. To say it was star-studded is an understatement, for VIP attendees made up for an interesting mix of showbiz actors and actresses, press, top entrepreneurs and beauty experts. Not to be eclipsed was Facial Care Centre's main face, Kris Aquino with husband James Yap who wore a stunning Randy Ortiz gown in green, Facial Care's signature color. Kris and James joined Boy as they opened in high spirits the raffle of 25 fabulous prizes for 25 lucky guests. Joining Kris in the league were loyal Facial Care celebrity models comprised of the astounding beauty Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo who came with spouse Cong. Anton Lagdameo, Cherie Gil, Amina Aranaz-Alunan with husband Rafa who's also a Facial Care For Men model, Ana Rocas, Carmi Martin, Priscilla Merelles and Patty Betita. Aiko Melendez, the latest Marie France endorser, was also present and later besieged by entertainment reporters for a scoop.

The highlights of "XXV" include the launching of a photo exhibit and book by top celebrity photographer, Raymund Isaac, who celebrates his 25th year as well, thus a timely collaboration of the country's two most credible purveyors of beauty. Entitled "Dimsum," the photo exhibit was inaugurated by Governor Vilma Santos-Recto (who's portrait is also an integral part of the book), Senator Loren Legarda, Raymund and George T. Siy, President of Facial Care Centre. Another jaw-dropping moment was the drawing of the grand raffle prizes that consisted of the latest Louis Vuitton water-proof keepall, and P100,000.00 worth of Facial Care Centre and Marie France treatments which took guests completely by surprise.

Not-to-be-missed personalities who threw more fun and gitz into the celebration were Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Vicki Zubiri, Joey Mead and Ruston Padilla who were also photographed for the book, Maurice Arcache, Mia Borromeo, Joey Mead, Agoo Bengzon, Juan Sarte, and Bobby Garcia who gamely answered for a prize when Boy went down from stage and mixed with the crowd asking what for them is Beauty.

A pillar of beauty, Facial Care Centre is respected and known for breaking boundaries attached to its name. And XXV, hailed as *The Biggest Beauty Event of the Year*, is another addition to Facial Care's list of successful accomplishments. From the grandiose setting to free-flowing drinks and marvelous giveaways, it was without a doubt a night for stars with after-memories that are unforgettable and unbeatable in the years to come.



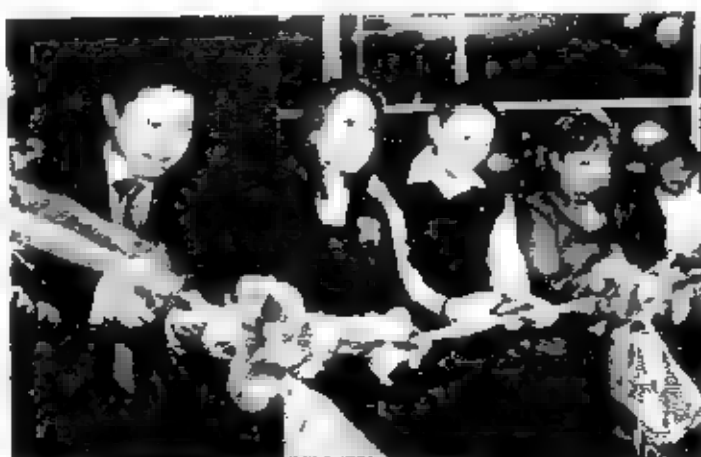
The beautiful Boy Abunda

Boy chit-chats with Robert Seña

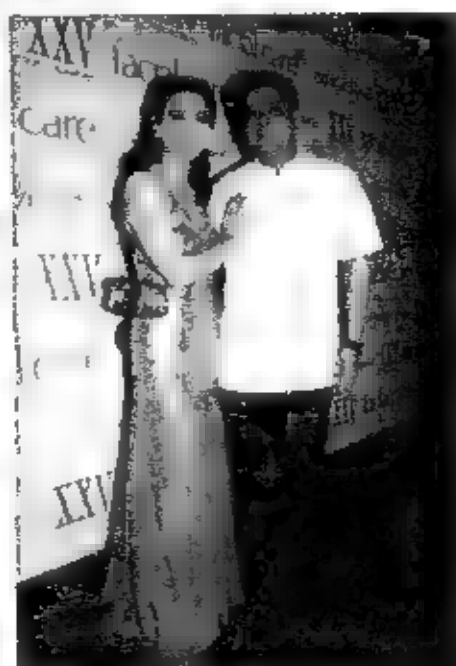


Facial Care Centre President George T. Siy

"A Beautiful Party for Beautiful Faces"



Ribbon cutting of the photo exhibit



Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo and Cong. Anton Lagdameo



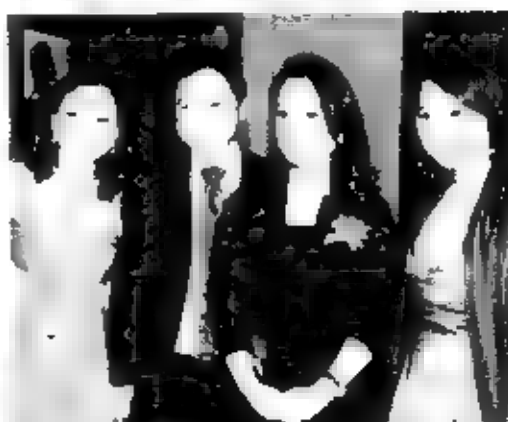
Raymund with MMPI's Sari Yap



3 men and a lady
Carmi Martin with top FCC bosses

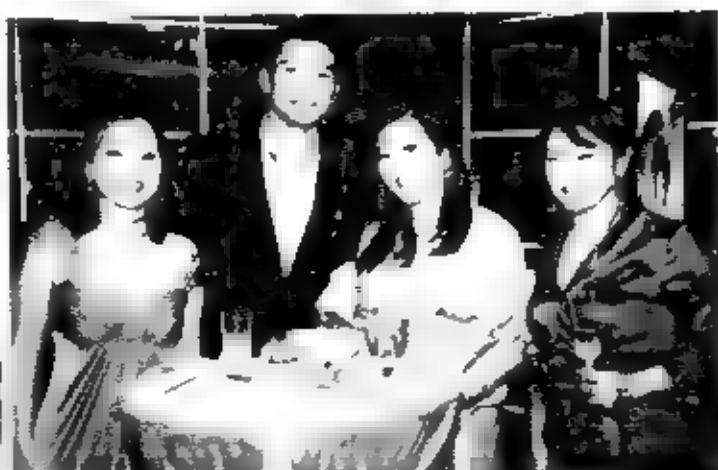


Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Dennis Valdes



Fabulous pair Maurice Arcache & Tessa Prieto Valdes

Bosses with Senator Loren Legarda



Mimi Siy, James Yap, Kris Aquino and Angeline Frechter



JR Isaac, Ruston Padilla, Cherie Gil, Raymund Isaac and Boy Abunda



Pepper Teehankee and Vicky Zubiri

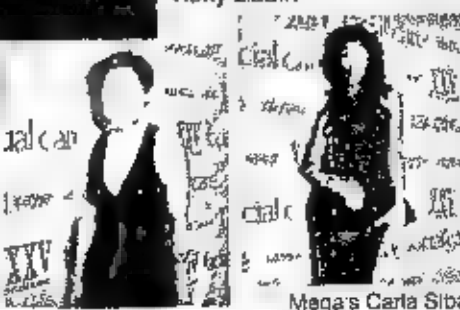


Amina Aranaz-Alunan and Rafa Alunan



Executive Assistant, Mimi Siy, George T. Siy and Rikki Dee

Preview's Agoo Bengzon



Mega's Carla Sibala



VIP's Senator Loren Legarda and Governor Vilma Santos-Recto with Raymund and Boy



Tirso Cruz, Vilma Santos & Raymund Isaac



Aiko Melendez breaks her silence



Raymund with family



FCC beauties with the grand prize winner Fe Reyes

And On The 28th Day, Beauty Was Created...

Through the imaginative vision and photographic execution of Raymund Isaac, complemented by some of the most talented make-up artists, stylists and creative consultants, beauty was represented through various archetypes by some of the country's most exquisite faces. And on the 28th of September, these images were revealed to the public at an affair aptly titled **XXV: The Beauty Event**, which celebrated the 25th year anniversaries of two big names in the beauty industry: Facial Care Centre and Raymund Isaac.

Facial Care Centre has had a long, prolific relationship with Raymund over the years. With Raymund becoming a huge part of the brand's advertising for over a decade now, they have successfully maintained their standing as the leading name in professional skincare. With some of the most beautiful and influential faces representing their brand, they have continued to uphold the highest standards in defining beauty.

Facial Care and Raymund's joint 25th year anniversaries became a wonderful and timely opportunity to celebrate the many facets of beauty through pictures. These photographs of the different portrayals of beauty by some of the country's most well-known faces – depicting mythical creatures, figures of literature, influential icons or their real-life identities, undoubtedly speak for themselves.

Dawn Zulueta as Aphrodite. As the Greek goddess of love, lust and beauty, Dawn Zulueta is the perfect embodiment of Aphrodite. Her classic features are a combination of innocence and of beauty at its prime – making her the ideal quintessence of the ethereal deity. For Dawn, "Someone who has empowered herself by knowing her abilities and good traits, and putting them to good use – that's beauty."

Lyn Ching as Bulan. As the Philippine moon goddess of fertility, a pregnant Lyn Ching captures the elegance and grace of our lunar mother, Bulan. With a radiance that shines as brilliant as the evening moon, Lyn exemplifies a quiet and tranquil beauty – just like the omnipresent queen of the night sky. She says, "There is beauty in being confident about having achieved a certain amount of glory in your life and knowing you can live life the way you want to."

Carmi Martin as Diwata. A goddess in human form, Carmi Martin perfectly embodies the "Diwata" or Philippine mythology's version of the fairy or nymph. With both a face and body that seem to defy age and time, she reflects the mystifying allure of the enigmatic goddess. For Carmi, "Beauty reflects from having that inner peace."

Amparito Lhuillier as Eva Peron. Her grace and elegance give off an understated yet commanding presence. Amparito Lhuillier flawlessly recaptures the classic beauty of the former First Lady of Argentina who won the people's hearts and was called "The Spiritual Leader of the Nation." She describes a beautiful person as "One with compassion, love and inner peace."

Amanda Griffin as Helen of Troy. As the "Face That Launched a Thousand Ships," Amanda Griffin effortlessly brings to life the magnificent vision that is Helen of Troy. With her exquisite features and natural elegance, she defines what it is to be a captivating beauty. Amanda believes "Beauty is purity."



AMPARITO LHUILLIER as Eva Peron

Ana Rocas as Maria Makiling. With an almost mythological aura, Ana Rocas easily transforms as the beautiful goddess of the mountain, Maria Makiling. Her delicate features and entrancing grace make her every bit as divine as the legendary goddess. Ana says that "Beauty is in the totality of an individual – their personality, their spirituality."

Amina Aranaz-Alunan as Juliet. As the female protagonist in what is said to be the "greatest love story ever told," Amina Aranaz-Alunan is perfect as the enchanting Juliet Capulet. With an exquisite face that reflects a delicate purity, she effortlessly captures the beauty of the literary heroine. For Amina, "Beauty has everything to do with one's spirituality, one's compassion and one's drive; their good moral character and conviction."

Patty Betita as Gabriela Silang. She perfectly embodies feminine strength and the empowering beauty that is Gabriela Silang. As the first Filipino woman to lead a revolt during the Spanish colonization of the Philippines, Patty Betita exudes a fiery intensity through her striking allure and captivating femininity. Patty sees a beautiful person as "Someone who is kind, generous, loving, confident and secure inside and out."

Tessa Prieto-Valdes as Sayuri. She has redefined beauty through flamboyance and has turned grandiosity into an art form. Tessa Prieto-Valdes' child-like character is reflected in her portrayal of the delightful Sayuri, which is Japanese for "a little lily," meaning chastity and innocence. For her, "It is our inner glow that makes for real beauty as opposed to just being plain pretty."



AMANDA GRIFFIN as Helen of Troy

Joey Marquez as Loki. His towering height and burly physique make Joey Marquez ideal to portray Loki, the Mythical Giant. Also referred to as the "God of Mischief," Joey's witty demeanor and lighthearted attitude match Loki's playful character.



JOEY MARQUEZ as Loki



ANA ROCAS as Maria Makiling



BOY ABUNDA



AMINA ARANAZ-ALUNAN as Juliet

Martin Jickain and Aiko Melendez as Lancelot and Guinevere. As Camelot's ill-fated lovers Sir Lancelot and Queen Guinevere, Martin Jickain and Aiko Melendez depict a beautiful picture of romance and enchantment. Aiko says, "When I get to help people, I feel the most beautiful woman alive."



Beauty in progress



CARMI MARTIN as Diwata



DAWN ZULUETA as Aphrodite



Boy Abunda. One of the country's most illustrious and credible talk show hosts, Boy Abunda is one who always appears impeccably dapper and composed whether on or off camera. A true symbol of masculine glamour, he is the epitome of original style, poise and sophistication. For Boy, "Beauty without character is afraid of wrinkles."

TESSA PRIETO-VALDES as Sayuri

Kris Aquino. One of the country's most eminent and beautiful faces on cinema, television and print, Kris Aquino has proven herself multifaceted. From game and talk shows, movies, advertisements and even her own magazine, she has epitomized the modern female – one who can be successful as a mother, wife and career woman. Kris believes that "External beauty shouldn't be one's main definition, beyond that there should be substance."



KRIS AQUINO

LYN CHING as Bulan



MARTIN JICKAIN and AIKO MELENDEZ as Lancelot and Guinevere



PATTY BETITA as Gabriela Silang

NOV 1 SAT

LIFE STYLE

Free spirit

Guess who's the next Freeway girl? She is much in-demand for magazine covers and considered one of the best-dressed celebrities in Tinseltown. A fab and fashionable personality, she represents Freeway's chic and hip image.



Hot, haute, hot news!

Watch out as this mystery girl unveils Freeway's Holiday Collection by Mel Orlina this October. The Hollywood-inspired collection features structured smart pieces and soft flowy drapes perfect for foxy holiday getups.



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Oct 7	Pacquiao-Barrera Boxing Bout (Live via Satellite)
Oct 12	SMB Oktoberfest with The Dawn
Oct 13	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 14	Gym Plus Demo Clinic
Oct 17	Sun Cellular's Talents Unlimited Mall Tour
Oct 19	SMB Oktoberfest with Sinosikat
Oct 20	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 21	Jollibee Masquerade Ball Party
Oct 26	SMB Oktoberfest
Oct 27	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 28	Psychic Festival 2007 - Trick or Treat for Kids

Cuba Libre

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - Live Bands
Tuesdays - Comedy Nights

STARMALL LAS PIÑAS

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Oct 5	SMB Oktoberfest at Cuba Libre
Oct 7	Pacquiao-Barrera Boxing Bout (Live via Satellite)
Oct 12	SMB Oktoberfest with Regional Cluster Finals of the
Oct 19	SMB National Beer Drinking Contest for 2007
Oct 26	SMB Oktoberfest at Cuba Libre
Oct 27	Sun Cellular's Talents Unlimited Mall Tour
Oct 28	Psychic Festival 2007 - Trick or Treat for Kids
Cuba Libre	
Mondays to Saturdays - Live Bands	
Sundays - Comedy Nights	

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG

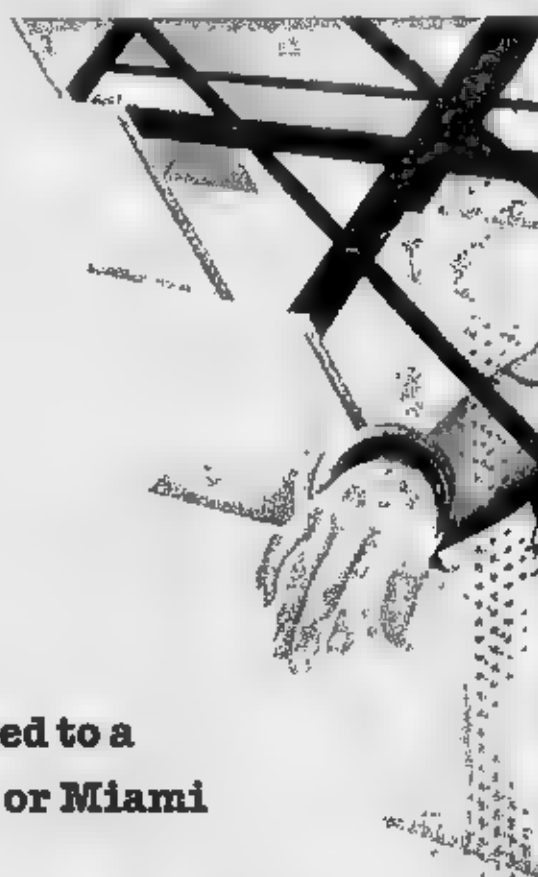
Tel No. 842-2513

Oct 5	SMB Oktoberfest with The Dawn
Oct 5	Trabaho Tour 2007 Mega Job Fair
Oct 6	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 7	Pacquiao-Barrera Boxing Bout (Live via Satellite)
Oct 7	Stuffed Toy Making for Kids
Oct 12	SMB Oktoberfest with Sinosikat
Oct 13	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 14	Windsong Pop Music Recital
Oct 14	Delicacies for Kids
Oct 20	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 21	Aeon Records Mall Tour
Oct 21	Choco-Molding for Kids
Oct 26	SMB Oktoberfest with True Faith
Oct 27	Mr Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop
Oct 28	Sun Cellular's Talents Unlimited Mall Tour
Oct 28	Trick or Treat for Kids
Oct 31	Psychic Festival 2007

Cuba Libre - Mondays to Sundays - Live Bands

**Red haute**

Wine pleated chiffon dress, Jun Escario; black 2-piece swimsuit, Miru; bangles, Get Happy and Lucy In The Sky



Imagine being instantly transported to a sunset cocktail party in St. Tropez or Miami

Sun-sationa

White pool party

White ruched jersey dress, Debbie Co



LONG KAPTANS AND PUCCI ENSEMBLES paired with Michael Kors jelly thongs or sky-wedges make for breezy, chic getups on the beach. These iconic beach gowns are the creations of designers Charina Sarre of Minx, Jun Escario and Debbie Co. Wooden bangles from Happy David of Get Happy punctuate these tropical threads.

These exquisite, fluid dresses, contrasting beautifully with the solid lines and some of the more iconic corners of the newly-opened The Tides Hotel in Boracay, allow you to imagine being instantly transported to a sunset cocktail party in St. Tropez or Miami.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

Of course, going overboard with the gowns can also make you eligible to walk the plank. It is still crucial to merge style and sensibility on the shoreline, so stay away from over-embellished ensembles—frou frou frocks that would make you look more like a mermaid fished out of the sea. The key is to accentuate your see-through long

gowns and long bareback jersey dresses with ethnic or metallic accessories that convey a tropical allure.

The Tides Hotel is one place where no one will chuckle at the sight of females bedecked in glamorous beach gowns. (And besides, we've come a long, long way from that nightmarish wet T-shirt-and-bathing-suit outfit in the name of modesty. Eww.)

This new style and relaxation haven is all thanks to the new hoteliers of the island, who are already known for their ground-breaking events and for Embassy, Manila's party central: Eric Cua and Stephen Ku, along with their partners Chef Fernando Aracama, Robby Carmona, Juan-Elizalde, GP Reyes, Jerry Garcia, Iza Calzado and Tim Yap.

It sits cozily at the heart of Boracay's pulsating center. It may be a little hard to imagine a world-class boutique hotel smack in the middle of D'Mall, which some jokingly refer to as the "Makati" of Bora, but once you step inside the hotel, it's impossible to leave.

Undoubtedly the hip new place for the "see and be seen" crowd, this place is being booked in lightning speed, so unless you have super power connections, getting a room is a feat.

Flowing iconic dresses in an exquisite new Boracay landmark, plus champagne and fireworks to herald its opening: I'd say the hotel's "Sun, Sea and Style" mantra is off to a great start.

The Tides Boracay office is at 204 Wilson St., Additional Hills, San Juan (tels. 7266165, 7229200 or 7253411). Visit www.tidesboracay.com.

Email the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Eddie Boy Escudero
Styling Kat Cruz

Makeup and Hair Xeng Zulueta
for Shu Uemura

Model Hilary of W Talent Management

Tropical space

White stretch jersey dress and zebra print 2-piece swimsuit, Miru; bangles, Get Happy



Beach-gown do's:

- Wear them long and flowy.
- Choose see-through, chiffon, crocheted or jersey materials.
- Go for sexy cuts: bareback, long slits, halter and strapless styles.
- Accessorize with wooden or metallic accents for a tropical feel.
- This season, choose rich colors in wine, aubergine, gold and metallics.



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CONGRATULATIONS to the last batch of winners!

September 22

Juliet Cena

Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro

September 23

Jasmen T. Calabroso

Carmen, Cagayan de Oro

September 24

Charlie B. Ecoy

Meycauayan, Bulacan

September 25

Anna M. Dacumos

Taguig City

September 26

Ria Pisano

Sta. Cruz, Laguna

September 27

Rochelle B. Vital

Tondo, Manila

September 28

Julita G. Castelo

Marikina City

September 29

Alma Santos-Pamintuan

Magalang, Pampanga

September 30

Gilka Caryl M. Lavega

San Jose, Antique

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LIFESTYLE FASHION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH F

YELLOW pony hobo
with tan Nappa
leather strap,
photographed
by Lilien Uy



Hope in a bag

TINT, A BRAND OF WELL-designed and high-quality bags and accessories, and patient-advocacy group

ICanServe have joined forces to create the Hope Collection, a line of trendy, functional pony-skin hobo bags in four colors, each with different combinations representing the four faces of hope.

Part of the proceeds from the purchase of the limited-edition bags (a good 30 percent) will help fund efforts to raise awareness and subsidize medical care for women with breast cancer.

Raul Francisco, Tint managing director, says, "We decided to collaborate with ICanServe in creating the Hope



BLACK pony bag with patent crocodile-stamped leather strap, photographed by Rachel Rillo

Collection because we believe there should be a deeper sense of purpose and social relevance to what we do.

Fashion is the vehicle we have chosen to reach out to people, and to make a difference in our own small way. Through ICanServe, we hope to help inform, educate and empower women. We will help give them hope through possibly the most trying time in their lives. Hope is a priceless gift that ICanServe gives to so many women afflicted with breast cancer."

ICanServe is a patient-advocacy group that arms women with information and hope, the two most essential weapons in the fight against cancer. By providing breast-care health and breast-cancer information, ICanServe helps patients make informed decisions about their health. It also provides access to special services that can help breast-cancer survivors recover and heal more effectively.

Joanna Preysler-Francisco, Tint marketing director, says, "We are thankful we have been given a chance to be part of such a beautiful project. We look forward to more projects and collaborations in the future. Tint stands for fashion with a conscience."

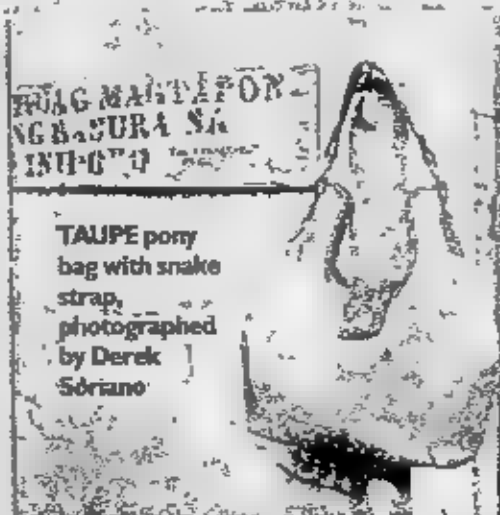
Four premier photographers-friends of Tint and ICanServe were tapped to help promote the Hope Collection by interpreting through photos the "four faces of hope" created by the color combinations of the Hope hobo bag.

Art photographers Isa Lorenzo and Rachel Rillo, documentarian-photographer Derek Soriano, and fashion photographer Lilien Uy were each given a Hope bag to shoot in his or her own distinct style.

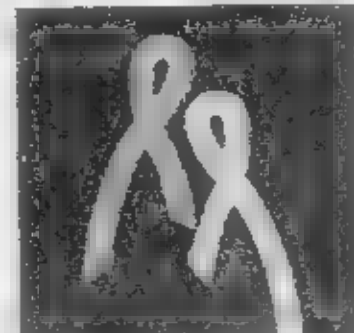
ICanServe special projects coordinator Crisann Olives-Celdran says the Hope Collection is made possible by the generosity of friends who gave their time and their resources to help a worthy cause.

"Our very talented photographers gave their services for free, and Raul and Joanna of Tint really worked hard for this project. Our patient-beneficiaries and our information advocacy benefit immensely from their goodwill and their good hearts."

The Hope Collection is available in Tint at Greenbelt 3, Makati. Call 6873942, e-mail icanserve@yahoo.com or visit www.icanserve.net.

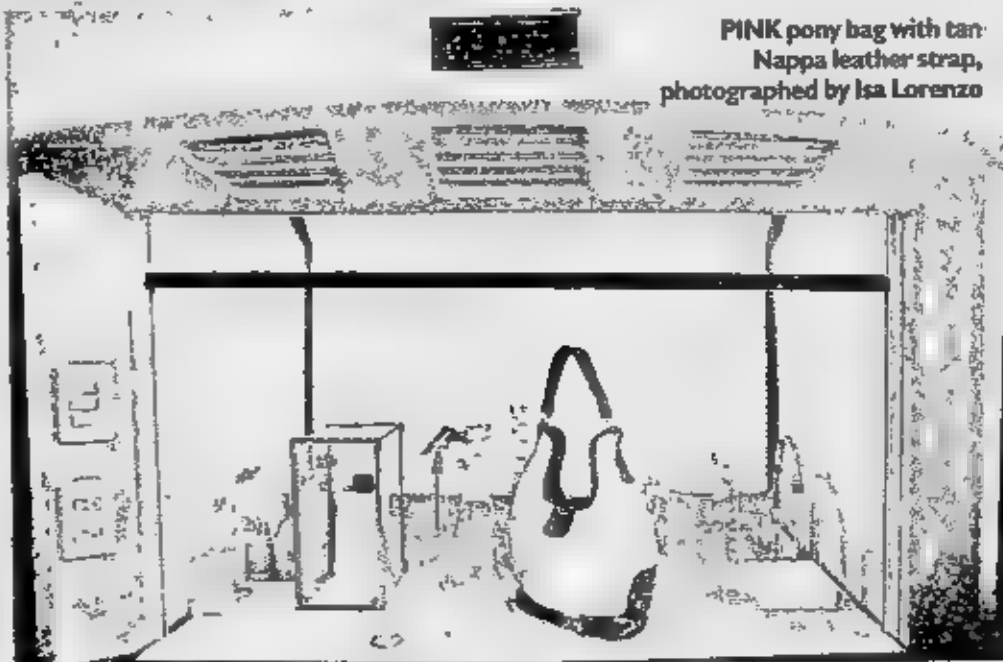


TAUPE pony bag with snake strap, photographed by Derek Soriano



icanserve
INFORMATION ON
BREAST CANCER &
OTHER SERVICES

PINK pony bag with tan Nappa leather strap, photographed by Isa Lorenzo



FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH F

Journey to Paradi

Jun de Leon and Patrice Ramos Diaz team up for an exhibit focusing on the interaction between fashion design and photography

MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER JUN DE LEON and designer Patrice Ramos Diaz take you on an enthralling journey via "Journey to Paradi," a fashion exhibit that explores the stimulating relationship between fashion and photography.

Featuring Diaz's abaca collection, inspired by the form and texture of mushrooms, De Leon's photographs remarkably capture images that evoke strong, visual elements that give the clothes a different dimension.

"Journey to Paradi" presents fashion in an artistic manner, and allows the viewer to examine every minute detail of each garment. Both photographer and designer wisely choose to allow the viewer to perceive and interpret the images from



their own perspective.

One might see an image of the ubiquitous mother and child, or an abstract expression of an emotion, or texture that is suggestive of nipples.

The photos, clothes and manner they are presented are artistic expressions of

two creative minds.

The exhibit is an inspiring experience that further diminishes the boundaries between fashion and art, and celebrates how the two worlds inspire one another.

"Journey to Paradi" is on view at the Greenbelt 3 lobby until Oct. 7.



ANA Roces

BEAUTY

Facial Care Centre and lensman Raymund Isaac jointly mark their 25th year in the beauty business

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

TWO SILVER MILESTONES made for one very stellar party over the weekend when Facial Care Centre and Raymund Isaac staged a joint celebration of their respective 25th anniversaries.

Facial Care Centre of the Marie France Group of Companies held a star-studded bash Friday at the Ayala Museum with the book launch and photo exhibit of the photographer Isaac, who was also celebrating his 25th year in the business. The latter has been photographing Facial Care Centre's campaigns for over a decade.

The ceremonies were hosted by TV personality Boy Abunda. Guests included Sen. Loren Legarda and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto, who cut the ceremonial ribbon with Facial Care Centre president George T. Siy. On exhibit were select portraits from Isaac's mini tome called "Dumsum," a stunning collection of his works from the last two decades.

Spotted at the party were current and previous faces of Facial Care Centre-Marie France-Svenson: Kris Aquino, escorted by husband James Yap; Dawn Zulueta, with husband Rep. Anton Lagdameo; Amuna Aranaz-Alunan, with husband Rafa Alunan, Ako Melendez (who was overheard commenting how "weird" it was to pose in front of a portrait of herself and estranged husband Martin Jickam), Cherie Gil, Carmi Martin; Ana Roces; Tessa Prieto-Valdes, with husband Dennis Valdes.

STILL/F2



AMINA Aranaz-Alunan

Still the face after 25 years

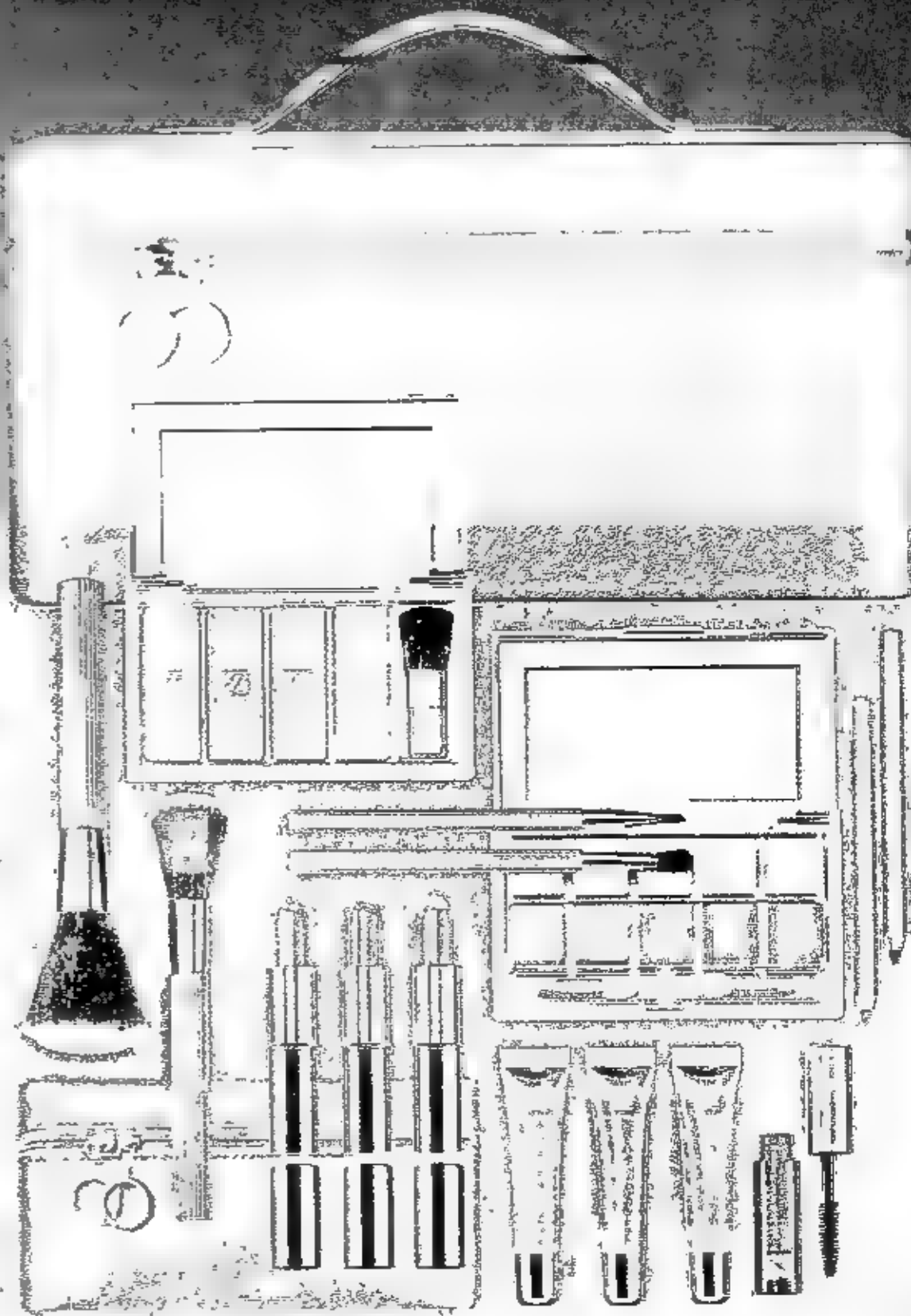
Contributing editor Ria Francisco-Prieto espouses the fight against breast cancer

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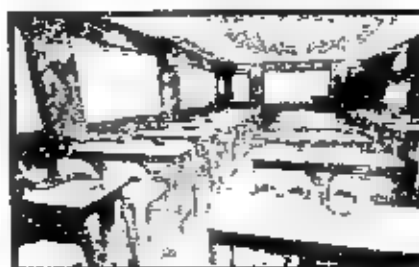
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DAWN Zulueta

Still 'the' face



AIKO Melendez

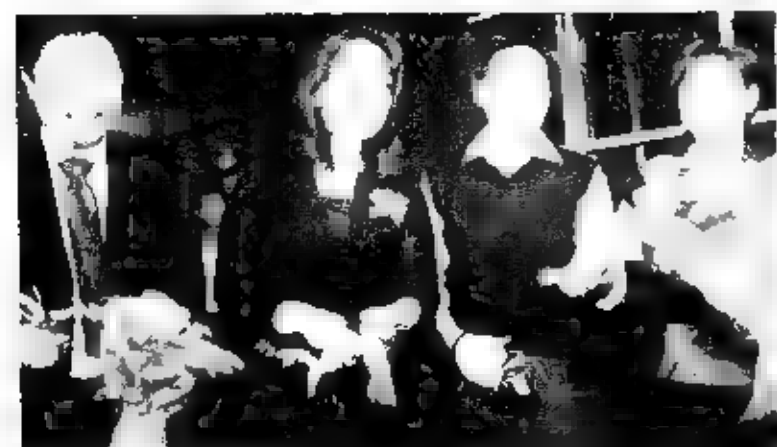
From page F1

Isaac's muses, friends and collaborators were also present: model Joey Mead; designers Randy Ortiz, Dennis Lustico, JC Buendia, Gian Romano; runway director Ariel Lozada; makeup artists Juan Sarte, Patrick Rosas, Chechel Joson; and a host of fashion and beauty editors.

With a star-studded guest list such as this, no wonder the entertainment journalists present had to work double time. *Cheche V. Moral*



KRIS Aquino and James Yap



FACIAL Care Centre president George T. Sly, Sen. Loren Legarda, Raymund Isaac and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto



PIA Guanio



TESSA Prieto-Valdes



CHERIE Gil

WHO DOESN'T love to have their nails done? And I'm not only talking about the girls. I've seen men getting their cleaning done while I've had mine.

Having some color painted on my nails makes me feel more feminine and literally "polished."

Remember, healthy nails are transparent and pinkish. Nails speak volumes about our hygiene, so make sure yours represent you well.

If you love nail polish like I do, make sure to wipe it off after at least five days to allow your nails to breathe and to avoid those nasty yellow stains. If you already have yellow stains, hydrogen peroxide will help whiten them back.

I find yellow nails dirty-looking. Some people deal with them by having their nails polished all the time to hide them, which I can honestly understand.

In my case, I make sure to give specific instructions before having my nails done, such as: Don't cut off the cuticle, push only with an orange stick with cotton, and nip out only hanging skin.

Giving instructions in advance will make the experience more enjoyable. Also, getting the services of the same aesthetician is very helpful, since you don't have to keep repeating yourself.

For hygienic purposes, every girl should have her own nail-care tools. I have heard horror stories about people getting infected from bacteria found in unsanitary tools. For your peace of mind, get your own kit.

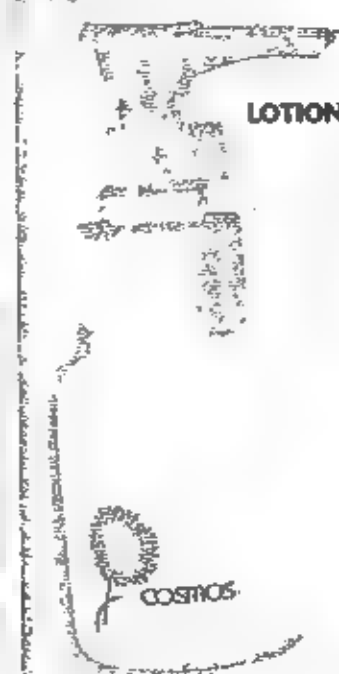
Mine is basic and very affordable. And I also enjoyed shopping for the tools, so what a great bonus! Here's what's inside my nail-care kit:

E-mail the author at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

BASIC kit



HAND sanitizer

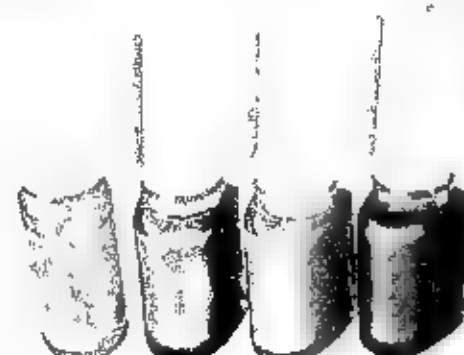


LOTION

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto

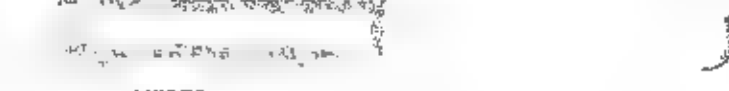


FAVE shades of nail polish

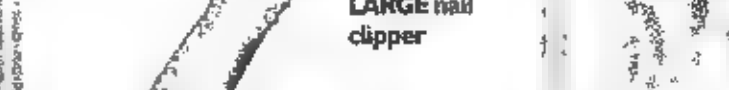
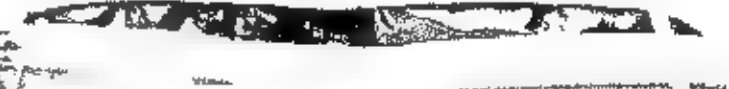
ORANGE stick



EMERY board



BUFFER



ACETONE

Homegrown body products

THIS AFTERNOON IS the formal launching of the very first House of Obagi branch in the Philippines at 2/F Trinoma Mall in Quezon City.

This upscale outlet will showcase all the Obagi skincare lines headed by the famous NuDerm program. It is accessible to those who want to go for consultation and undergo treatments with state-of-the-art machines and equipment for the skin.

Products will be made available over the counter for those who have prescription from doctors authorized by Obagi.

To date, there are 670 Obagi-accredited physicians, dermatologists and surgeons across the country.

The House of Obagi can refer you to the doctor nearest your residence or place of work so you may avail yourself of a prescription and be advised which Obagi program is most suitable to your skin concern.

Skin concerns may include roughness, dullness, acne, hyperpigmentation, sun damage and melasma.

Aside from NuDerm, the other Obagi lines and treatments are C Rx system, Blue Peel, Professional C serums, Glensiderm M.D., and ZO Skin Health, the newest line.

So far I have only tried NuDerm and Professional C serums and have been very satisfied with the results.

I hardly venture away from the Makati area, but since I am a prodigal daughter to Obagi and have just learned to ride the MRT, I will definitely visit the new place for acne outbreaks and post-pregnancy

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



melasma.

The shop was also put up to protect the consumers from buying fake or diluted Obagi from parallel sellers.

Local finds

Scouting the various malls and websites this month for a head start in my Christmas shopping, I am happy to discover that we now have local counterparts that come close to imported brands. Check out the following finds.

Essence Skin Bar—located at 3/F Expansion Wing, Robinsons Galleria. The quality of the body products is good enough for export and, while the price isn't cheap, it is still lower than imported products.

The treatment covers hair, face and body care. My favorites are the bath products, particularly the Kojic whitening soap (P180). Kojic smells like orange and is one of the most potent face-and-body whitening soaps in the market. Results show after the second bath day.

But there's a warning: Do not apply directly on body because there is a stinging sensation. Rub on wash cloth or lather on hands first, then apply to the body and massage for a few seconds per area.

After you rinse off and pat dry, apply lotion on body right away as

Kojic is very drying so it may not be suitable for the sensitive or dry-skinned. To maximize results, choose from any of the three whitening body lotions: Orange and Papaya, Green Papaya, or Whitening Lotion (the strongest). Depending on size, prices are either P280 or P550 for the body lotion, or P850 for the non-greasy hydrating body butter.

Bestsellers are Green Tea and Orange and Papaya Body lines (body scrub, wash and lotion).

The Green Tea lotion has a cooling effect while the Orange and Papaya is a whitening line, smelling citrusy fresh.

Another bestseller is the Glutathione whitening soap (P220). It's nondrying whitening treatment so it's perfect for dry, sensitive skin. Using it eliminates the need for lotion so you get three treatments in one.

There's also Plain Body Butter. It's perfect for those who like clean scents like soap and water or white musk. It's very subtle and adjusts to everyone's body chemistry.

My favorites aside from Kojic soap: Goat's Milk Body wash is perfect with Plain Body Butter, Mineral salt scrubs as the cream-based ones are not scrubby enough for me.

Fruits & Passion, located at G/F Greenbelt 3 mall, has created a hair-and-body line for babies.

Since I don't have a child myself, I resorted to picking my favorites for personal use: Massage Oil (P1,250), which feels light and smells clean for those who do not want it to clash with their colognes; Oatmeal bath milk (P1,250) for those who have sunburnt skin or dermatitis; and

Protective Diaper balm (P995), which is great for chapped hands, cuticles and dry lips.

You may also check out www.the-fibermill.net, another local line of products that may give the likes of Body Works a run for their money. I recommend Sigh and Bliss room sprays and hand sanitizers and Milk liquid hand wash and body soap. E-mail info@thefibermill.net for price inquiries.



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acne-prone
faces

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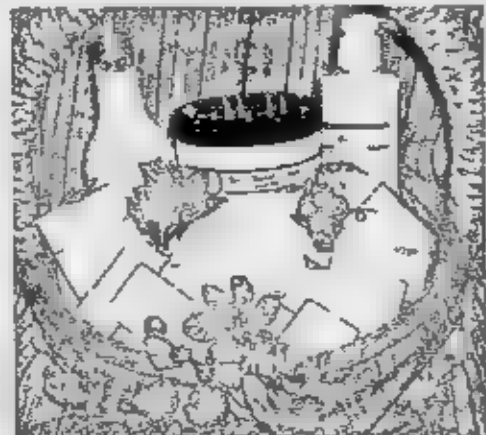
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FRUITS & Passion Bébé



MY CHOICE picks in a basket: Green-tea line, soaps in Kojic, Glutathione, Colloidal Oatmeal and Green Papaya, Olive and Milk lotion

Born-again bobs

LOUISE BROOKS IS THE silent-movie actress best known for her portrayal of a vamp in the 1928 movie "A Girl in Every Port." More so, her fame is attributed to her distinctive bob: the eponymous look that launched a sexy trend that revolutionized hair forever as can be seen through the images of fashion icon Coco Chanel.

Today, Victoria Beckham's bob is one of the most popular and emulated re-inventions with a posh, sharply angled chin-length bob and longer, diagonally cut bangs. Like Louise Brooks and Coco Chanel, Victoria Beckham proves to everyone that short strands can be quite stunning.

The bob is a cut that inspires millions of women

by giving them the confidence to be liberated from their long hair. Women and men alike adore a bob haircut and find it extremely sexy. It's the perfect hairstyle for free-spirited people who want very little hassle with haircare. While the younger generation eagerly embrace this style, women of all ages find themselves having to face a critical decision—to bob or not to bob. Many are fearful of taking the plunge only to discover that long hair would quickly be back in vogue. However, it was difficult to ignore the continued popularity of the bob.

Jake Galvez, chief hair and makeup artist of Tony Galvez Salon, recommends a bob to more mature women because long

hair has a tendency to drag down the face and make one look older. He says, "For someone feeling the need for a makeover, the classic bob with modern twists is perfect for women in their 30s and 40s. The fresh new look will make women seem almost 20 years younger! Apart from that, the practically carefree cut is made to stand out with modern twists on shape, texture and color."

Jake, who is also known for his fantastic makeovers, said, "Changes make any style modern, showing yourself in a totally different way from your previous look." To showcase these makeovers, Jake gave 42-year-old Annie Tamondong-Bautista a Glamour Bob which frames her face.

Sem Pe-Benito, 38, is given a Posh Bob that gives her wash-and-wear freedom. Finally, 35-year-old Marie Yu is given the Sleek Bob, perfect for women on the go because it retains its shape no matter what time of day.

For women on the go, the timeless and classic bob is perfect for any occasion. Get your bob on and visit the Tony Galvez Salon at The Tony Galvez Centrum, 124 9th Ave., near corner R Tazon Blvd., Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City; call 9133953, 9134370; e-mail info@tonygalvez.com.ph; or visit www.tonygalvez.com.ph.



BEFORE

AFTER

Sali na sa Karerang Buong Mundo ang Panalo!

Takbo na sa SM Mall of Asia sa October 20! Simula 10 am, ang dami mong makutunan sa pagtagap ng environment. Habang natututo ka, isabay mo na ang saya. Naro'n ang Radioactive Sego Project, Up Dharma Down, Paramita at Sleepwalk Circus. Pwede ka pang manalo ng IMAX tickets at Coke gift packs.

Kaya taralets na!

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To have and to hold

Art: ARNELA A. AVETRIA



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY

BY PM. JUNIOR



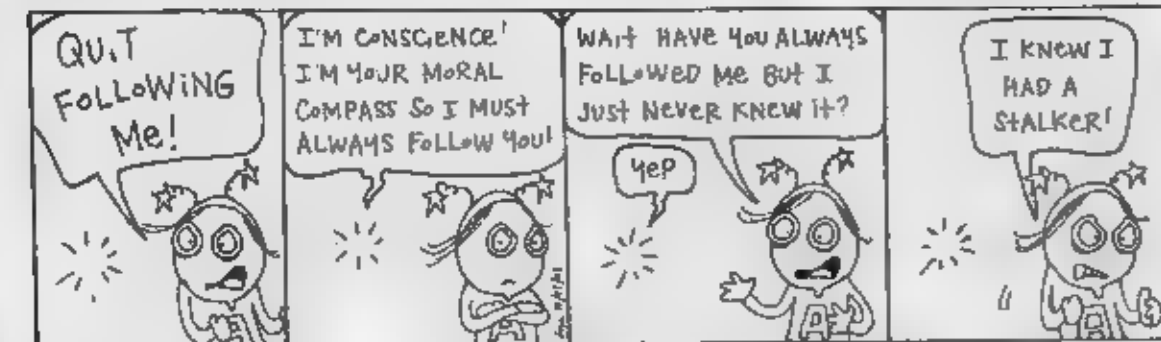
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



ATOMO AND WEBBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Rubbed out
6 Soup server
11 Figures pro
14 Rummy
15 Grim
16 Surprised

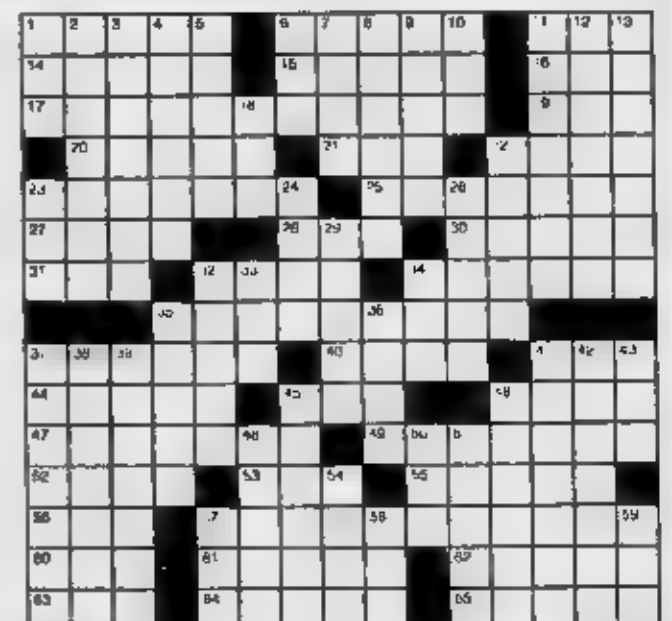
17 Bird's seat?
19 Come to pass, briefly
20 French river
21 "Gunga..."
22 Unlike
23 Article of clothing
25 Bird's wintering hole?
27 Nabisco cookie

31 Brief handbills
32 Hemingway, familiarity
34 Carefree
35 Bird's com?
37 Store, as grain
40 Lachrymose
41 Strike-caller, in brief
44 Uproarious
45 Pugilist's stats
46 Afghanistan

47 Bird's jewelry?
49 Able to pay
52 Ticks off
53 New Zealand bird, of the past
55 Brandish
56 Puppy's bite
57 Bird's tuft of feathers?
60 Young ladies'

61 Looked at amorously
62 Japanese immigrant
63 Like a
64 Deplurized body
65 Dry runs

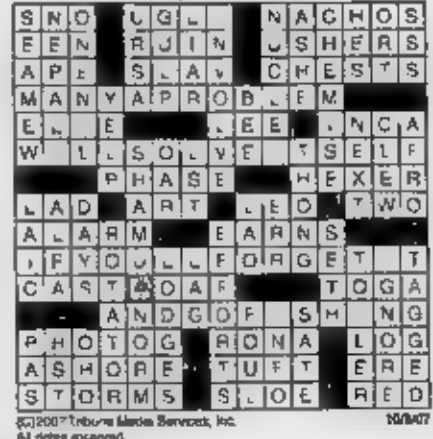
DOWN
1 Cockney emcee
2 Printed-silk fabric
3 London hubbub
4 Pie (frozen treat)
5 Plow man
6 Dr. Leary's drug
7 In the thick of
8 Conquer partner?
9 Argentine plain
10 Dusk, to Dorine
11 Live together
12 King Tut, e.g.
13 Malign
18 Desire
22 Performed again
23 Tibetan gazelle
24 Amazon native
26 Heroism
29 So much, in
32 Coral component
33 Burrows or Fortas
34 Long, fluffy scarf
35 Jeopardizes



By Robert A. Doll
Hattiesburg, MS

10/5/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



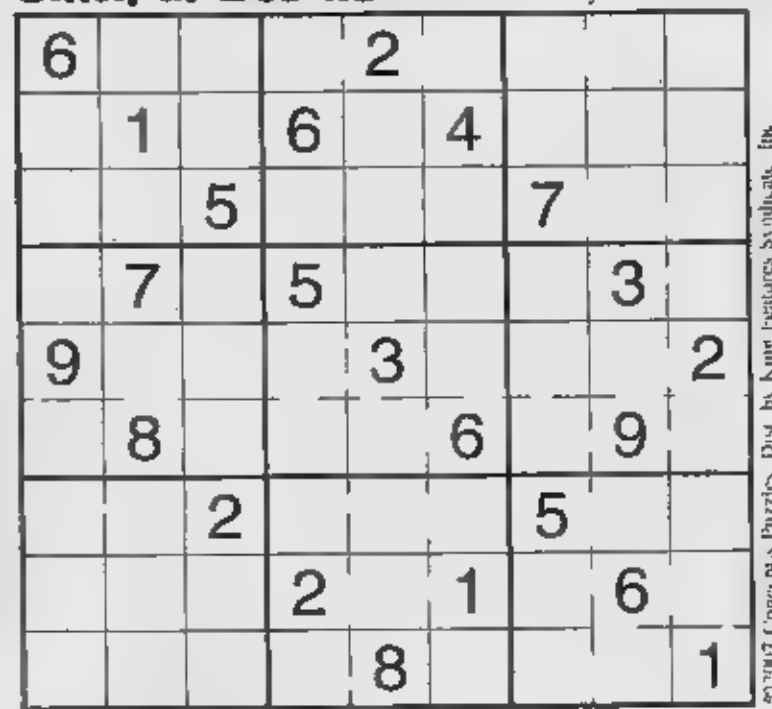
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38 Dame Myra
37 Finales
38 Feed
39 Wages when ailing
41 Futile
42 Fixed attitude
43 Jockey Day
45 Small hills
46 Loath
48 Insect stage
50 Possess
51 Lawful
54 Poker bullets
57 Beau Brummell
58 Lyric verse
59 "the season."

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

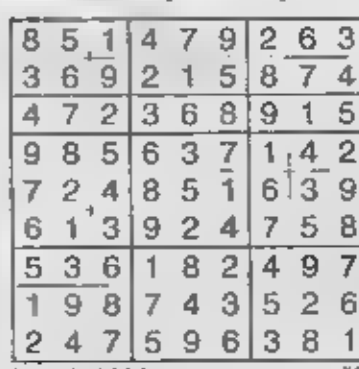
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/05

Answer to previous puzzle



HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD



HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong sense of justice. You will always fight for what is right. Because of this, you frequently (and heroically) put the needs of others before your own. You're fun-loving, and you enjoy a good time. (You're also grateful when others appreciate your efforts.) Many of you can thrive in the arts. Your year ahead will be wonderfully social. Enjoy!

Birthday et. Kale Winslet, actress, Bob Geldof, musician/actor, Václav Havel, Czech president/playwright

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to entertain others or to enjoy yourself at parties, the movies or wherever people are having fun. You're in the mood to entertain!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a great day to buy beautiful things for your home or for family members. Similarly, it's a wonderful day to entertain people at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Many of you can make money today through writing, studying, selling or talking to others. Communication with others will be very successful.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. It's also an excellent day to go shopping. What you think and what you want seem to be the same thing!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're in marvelous form today. Get out and schmooze. You'll enjoy the company of others, and they will enjoy seeing you. It's all good fun!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today. You have a need for some peace and quiet in a way that makes you feel calm and pleasant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Group activities will flow smoothly today. It's easy to get the cooperation of others, because you're unusually diplomatic and charming!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's easy to impress important people today. They think you're the cat's meow. This is a good day to ask your boss for a raise or at least some praise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Travel anywhere will please you today. You have a strong desire to learn something new. Any kind of schooling, lecture or film that teaches you something will thrill you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Gifts and goodies can come your way today. People are very receptive to you. If you want somebody to do a favor for you, or you want to borrow something, this is the day to ask.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Relationships with partners and close friends are pleasantly smooth today. It's an excellent day to sign contracts or form working units with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Co-workers are supportive today. You feel good about things. Some of you will hear good news about your health, or perhaps a happy piece of news that is related to a

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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'Desperate' remark stirs a hornet's nest

LOS ANGELES—A REMARK BY TERI Hatcher's character about Philippine medical schools on the TV series "Desperate Housewives" has stirred a hornet's nest.

An e-mail about the dialogue in the show's Sept. 30 episode has been circulating in cyberspace, provoking mostly angry reactions from Filipinos all over the world.

The e-mail, with the subject line, "Desperate Housewives—Insulting Remark on Philippine Medical Schools," comes with an attached MP3 clip of the dialogue, and a transcription.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

"Susan Mayer Delfino, played by Teri Hatcher, was talking with her OB/Gyn in the scene. Her doctor told her that she might be hitting menopause."

"Here's what she said: 'Okay, before we go any further, can I check those diplo-mas? Because I would just like to make sure

they are not from some med school in the Philippines.'"

Mary Jo Bernardo-Aragon, the Philippines' Consul General in Los Angeles, sent a letter complaining about the "derogatory remark" to Mark Pedowitz, president of ABC Studios, which owns the international franchise of "Desperate Housewives."

'Strong displeasure'

Here are excerpts from the letter dated October 2.

"The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles wishes to express its strong displeasure over a derogatory remark made against Philippine medical schools in a recent episode of 'Desperate Housewives'."

"We wish to point out that the Philippine medical profession is highly regarded all over the world, as evidenced by the high demand for Filipino healthcare professionals in many countries, including this country (US). The United States recognizes the academic standards of Philippine medical and nursing schools, and in general, does not require additional schooling in this country for Filipino healthcare professionals who wish to work here. Moreover, the Philippines is considered a top medical destination, with many foreigners, including US citizens, who choose to undergo surgical and other medical procedures in the country in recognition of its high-quality and reasonably-priced medical services."

"We believe that a popular series such as 'Desperate Housewives' need not resort to making such prejudicial statements in order to generate humor. It is most unfortunate that the remark made in the recent episode only served to create racial stereotypes."

"We will therefore appreciate the ABC Network's immediate and concrete steps to rectify the injustice done against Filipino healthcare professionals."

Fil-Am in the cast

We asked Alec Mapa, the Filipino-American actor who has a recurring role in "Desperate Housewives," for his reaction over the remark. He e-mailed us the following reply: "The last time I was in Manila, I saw an infant walking through rush-hour traffic with her hand held out begging for change. Clearly, we have bigger concerns in the Philippines than something a fictional character said on television. Having said that, it's unfortunate that the Philippines was used as a punch line. My family is filled with doctors and medical professionals. I know first hand from them that the medical schools in the Philippines are top-notch. Anyone of us would be lucky to be under the care of any doctor or healthcare professional from the PL."

Online petition

A website, http://www.petitiononline.com/mod_perl/signed.cgi?FIABC, demands an apology from ABC and "Desperate Housewives." It also asks the website visitors to sign the petition asking for an apology.

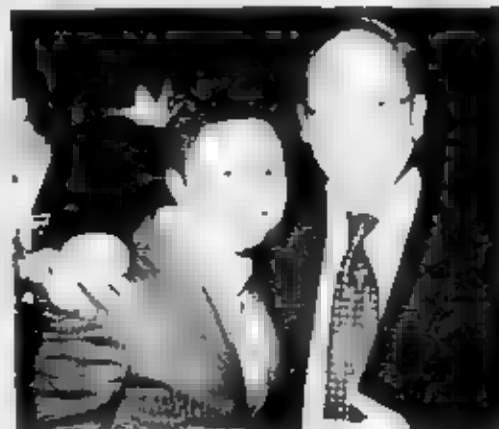
The following are excerpts of a message to the producers of "Desperate Housewives" and ABC that is posted on that website:

"We are writing to express concern and hurt about a racially-discriminatory comment made in an episode of Desperate Housewives on 9/30/07."

"As members and allies of the Filipino American community, we are writing to inform [you] that this type of derogatory remark was discriminatory and hurtful, and such a comment was not necessary to maintain any humor in the show. Additionally, a statement that devalues Filipinos in healthcare is extremely unfounded, considering the overwhelming presence of Filipinos and Filipino Americans in the medical field. Filipinos are the second largest immigrant population in the United States

with many entering the US (and successfully passing their US licensing boards!) as doctors, nurses, and medical technicians."

"In fact, the Philippines produces more US nurses than any other country in the world. So, to belittle the education, experience, or value of



'HOUSEWIVES' creator Marc Cherry, right, with Fil-Am cast member Alec Mapa



TERI Hatcher

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA	
1 NO RESERVATION - THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 EVENING 11:55 2:30 5:05 7:40 10:00	8 indieSine: TUKSO 1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45
4 WEDDING DAZE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
5 DECEMBER BOYS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	10 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

CINEMALAYA 2007
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showing at
Robinsons Movieworld
OCTOBER 03 to 09

ERMITA	
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	6 WEDDING DAZE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
3 DECEMBER BOYS 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 NO RESERVATION 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	

exclusive screening

Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
October 03 to 09

"Ang Lalake sa Parola" offers a haunting yet insightful glimpse into one man's struggle to discover his true self in a world caught between fantasy and reality. In the midst of a conservative rural community, he must choose between being straight or coming out - and ultimately discovers that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

MTRCB Rating: R16

METRO EAST	
1 WEDDING DAZE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	5 ROGUE ASSASSIN 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
2 NO RESERVATION 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00	6 THE BRAVE ONE 1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00	7 RESIDENT EVIL 3 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	8 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

NOVALICHES	
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3	3 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 NO RESERVATION	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER	
1 WEDDING DAZE 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05	4 DECEMBER BOYS 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

STA. ROSA	
1 THE HOST	1 NANCY DREW
2 SKINWALKERS	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 BRATZ
4 PLANET TERROR	4 SHOOT 'EM UP

DASMARINAS	
1 HAIRSPRAY	1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 THE HOST	2 BRATZ
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3	3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

ANGELES	
1 THE HOST	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 BRATZ	3 SHOOT 'EM UP
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	

STARMILLS	
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	5 RUSH HOUR 3
3 BRATZ	6 THE HOST

BACOLOD	
1 THE LAST LEGION	1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN	3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE	4 NANCY DREW
5 STOMP the YARD	6 BRATZ
6 DISTURBIA	6 DAGYANG

M M T A METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

SEANG CINEPLEX	
1 DECEMBER BOYS	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 NO RESERVATIONS	2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 CHUCK & LARRY	3 WEDDING DAZE
4 AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST	

Cinema 2000	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 CHUCK & LARRY	2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 NO RESERVATIONS	3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

starmall	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 CHUCK & LARRY	2 DECEMBER BOYS
3 NO RESERVATIONS	3 DECEMBER BOYS
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 DECEMBER BOYS

metropolis star	
1 DON'T LOOK BACK	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

THEATRES	
1 SHOOT 'EM UP	1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 THE BRAVE ONE	2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 THE BRAVE ONE	2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

Filinvest	
1 CHUCK & LARRY	1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3	2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS	3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 DECEMBER BOYS	4 DECEMBER BOYS

Blue Wave	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3	2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN	3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 RESERVED	4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3	2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007

OVERHEARD

LOS ANGELES—ACTOR BEN AFFLECK, ON HIS romance with singer-actress Jennifer Lopez that sent paparazzi into overdrive from 2002-04. "It was probably bad for my career. I was in a relationship and [the media] mostly lied and inflated a bunch of salacious stuff for the sake of selling magazines. I paid a price for that." AFP

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MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 DECEMBER BOYS
MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

2 NO RESERVATIONS
MTRCB GP 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15

3 CHUCK & LARRY
MTRCB R-13 1:00

4 WEDDING DAZE
MTRCB GP 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

PREMIERE THEATRE
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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12 AUSTRALIAN FILMS TO SEE IN AUSTRALIA FOR REAL

October 3 (Wednesday)	
Love Serenade	4:00 pm
Harvie Krumpet (Short film)	7:00 pm
Look Both Ways	7:00 pm
Cracker Bag (Short film)	9:00 pm
Floating Life	9:00 pm
October 4 (Thursday)	
Australian Rules	4:00 pm
Breathe (Short film)	7:00 pm
Caterpillar Wish	7:00 pm
Cool White (Short film)	9:00 pm
Japanese Story	9:00 pm
October 5 (Friday)	
Looking for Alibrandi	4:00 pm
Harvie Krumpet (Short film)	7:00 pm
Jindabyne	7:00 pm
Cracker Bag (Short film)	9:00 pm
Lantana	9:00 pm
October 6 (Saturday)	
Looking for Alibrandi	2:00 pm
Australian Rules	4:00 pm
Breathe (Short Film)	7:00 pm
Look Both Ways	7:00 pm
Floating Life	9:00 pm
October 7 (Sunday)	
Love Serenade	2:00 pm
Japanese Story	4:00 pm
Cool White (Short film)	7:00 pm
Caterpillar Wish	7:00 pm
Lantana	9:00 pm

ADMISSION FEE is P50.00

10th Floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
10th Floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Call 833-7861, 171 178 or 833-2277
For cinema details.

INSIANG

Tanghalang Filipino's restaging of Mario O'Hara's "Insiang" opens tonight at the CCR. Chris Millado directs this version of the acclaimed '70s film with actors Sheeniy Vee Gener (Insiang), Ricky Davao (Dado), Mae Paner (Toyang) and Mailes Kanapi (Pacing). Two-weekends: Fridays to Sundays, 8 p.m.; 3 Saturdays and Sundays.



Network exec wants to put issue to rest

By Marinel R. Cruz

ABS-CBN NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS head Maria Ressa denied talk that she "forced" veteran broadcaster, David Jude "DJ" Sta. Ana, the Kapamilya network's futures desk director, to resign from his post.

"DJ is a good friend of mine. He felt that [resigning] was the right thing to do at this point in time," Ressa told Inquirer Entertainment on Tuesday. "I accepted his resignation. It was very amicable. We still stay in touch. There's no bad blood between

MARIA Ressa
RUDY ESPERAS

Ressa, however, refused to divulge the reason why Sta. Ana quit.

She pointed out that the network did not question Sta. Ana's credibility as a director, as rumors circulating via this past week say. She added that even the rumor that Sta. Ana had accepted bribes from politicians had "nothing to do with anything."

Ressa said she hoped that, by saying this, the issue would be put to rest. "In the absence of real information, people will continue to talk. Out of respect for DJ and our organization, the less gossip and speculation, the better it is."

'Desperate' remark stirs ...

From page G1

Filipino Americans in health care is extremely disrespectful and plain and simply ignorant. Many of the hospitals in major metropolitan areas of the US (and the world) would not be able to operate without its Filipino and Filipino American staff members.

Public apology

"As Filipino Americans and allies, we band together to ensure that this type of hateful message should not be allowed to continue in our schools and workplaces. We demand that the episode be edited to remove the ignorant and racist remark. We will not allow hateful messages against our community (or any other oppressed community) to continue."

"We demand a public apology to the Filipino American community, and we demand the episode be edited to remove the ignorant and racist remark. We will not allow hateful messages against our community (or any other oppressed community) to continue."

Joke lang!

The following are sample comments on our blog site,

http://www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport/2007/10/02/insulting-re-mark-about-philippine-medical-schools/

• "I don't find the joke funny! It's very insulting for Filipinos! Didn't the writers and staff of 'Desperate Housewives' know that President Clinton's doctor is a Filipino?"

• "Joke lang yan! It was a white doctor that was being treated in the episode. The episode was about a medical professional from the Philippines who is in the USA. Can you imagine that the white medical professionals from the Philippines are in the USA. Can you imagine that the white medical professionals from the Philippines are closing its doors at home?"

• "Nice to know that many readers are finding the humor in this issue. I struggled with it in the beginning but after viewing the full clip again and again, I was able to see the humor, too."

• "This comment is not only an insult to Filipino doctors and med schools but also to thousands of foreign students who graduated from Philippine med schools."

• "Jeez, it's a JOKE! Being all too politically correct can be more annoying than hitting on some un-

fortunate ethnic group, race, etc. If it were forbidden to make fun of other people, there would be no jokes at all."

• "Stupid, insensitive comments like this one is never good humor. Filipinos should and must demand an apology from the producers of the show... but again the damage has been done and surely they need to do something to repair it, and I mean more than just an apology."

• As we write this, we are waiting for a statement from the folks behind "Desperate Housewives." A publicist of Disney-ABC International Television e-mailed us to expect "a comment or the appropriate response on behalf of the show and studio."

E-mail the columnist at rmpales5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

POWER PLANT

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 896-14494

WEDDING DAZE R13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30 7:50, 10:10	RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION R13 1:50, 4:00, 6:10 8:20, 10:30	DECEMBER BOYS PG13 1:30, 3:45, 6:00 8:15, 10:30
EVENING PG13 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30 7:55, 10:20	NO RESERVATIONS G 220, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GLORIETTA 1	1 WEDDING DAZE	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
GLORIETTA 4	1 EVENING	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 DECEMBER BOYS	4 NO RESERVATIONS
GREENBELT 1	1 DECEMBER BOYS	2 WEDDING DAZE	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 WEDDING DAZE
GREENBELT 3	1 NO RESERVATIONS	2 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL	3 HARSH TIMES	4 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 WEDDING DAZE	2 DECEMBER BOYS	3 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 DAYWATCH	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 SINKING OF JAPAN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 WEDDING DAZE
TRINOMA	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 EVENING	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 DECEMBER BOYS
	5 NO RESERVATIONS	6 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	7 WEDDING DAZE	

AT THE MALLS	
<p>GLORIETTA Glorietta 752 7272 Greenbelt 757 4853 to 54</p> <p>AYALA MUSEUM September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 16 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org</p>	
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 8 to 18; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Fitness At The Town September 3 to December 14, 2007; Mon./Wed./Fri. - 6 PM; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Stargazing: "Apat Dapat Dapat Apat" Mall Tour October 5, 5 PM, Activity Center
REPATORY PHILIPPINES	Repatory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-8718 or visit www.repatory-philippines.com
HYBRIDITY	Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 16 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Nina with the Kilyawan Boys October 6, 7 PM; TriNoma Park

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Kristine: Diet was lucky

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS KRISTINE HERMOSA HAS NOT reconciled with Diether Ocampo but says she is open to remarrying the actor when the court finally grants her request to nullify their marriage.

"The people we consulted said our marriage isn't legal. We want to correct this mistake so that when we decide to get back together someday, we can get married the right way," Kristine told entertainment writers during the press conference of her newest ABS-CBN soap, "Prinsesa ng Banyera."

In June 2005, Kristine filed a petition with the Makati Prosecutor's Office seeking to nullify her marriage to Diether on grounds that "no marriage contract was executed" when they "formalized their relationship on July 24, 2004, in Quezon City." Kristine, in her petition, said "no ceremony took place on the 21st of September 2004 in Jaen, Nueva Ecija."

Time away

Since the filing of the case, Kristine and Diether have broken up, reconciled and parted ways again. But in this interview, Kristine said her heart still belongs to the actor.

"I cannot discount the fact that Diet (Diether's nickname) and I had a really good relationship. We just needed time and space away from each other," she explained.

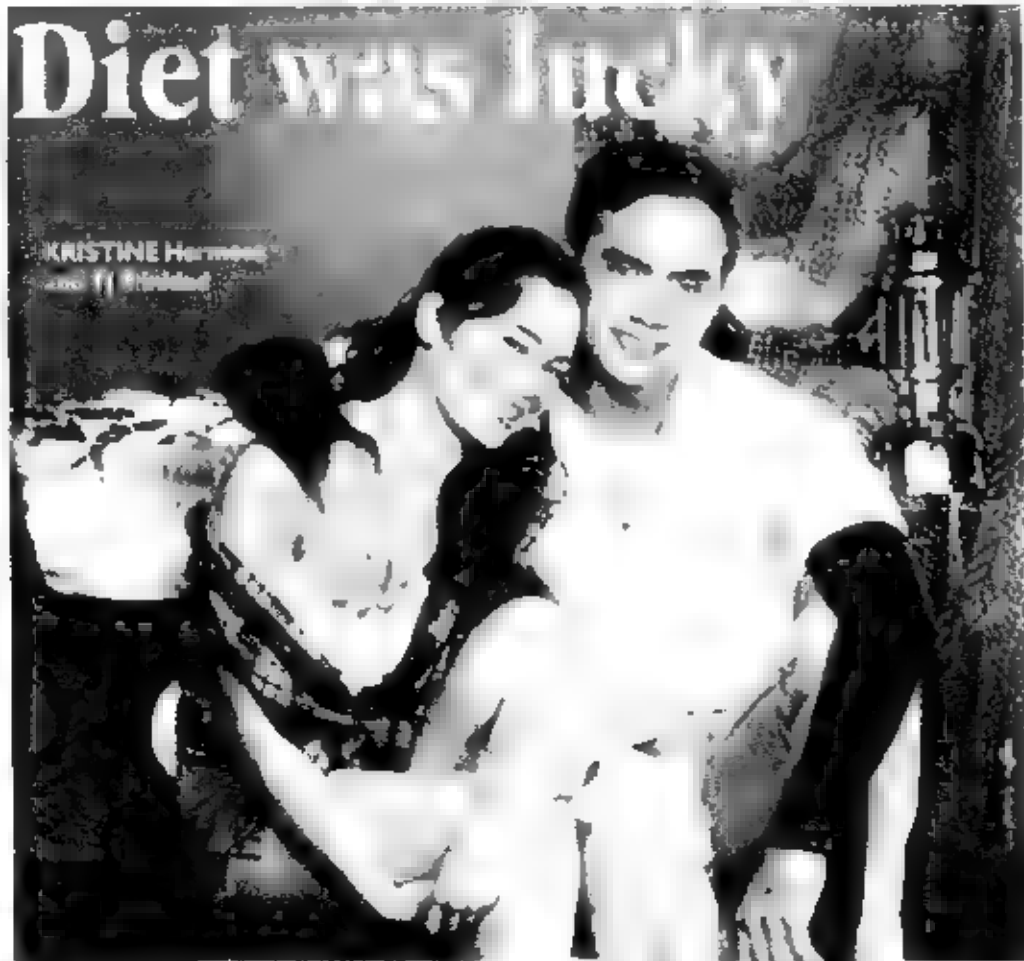
Kristine, however, admitted that her experience with Diether left her somewhat jaded. "I've grown tired of entertaining other guys. I don't think I'm ready for another relationship right now. I also don't feel like dating. These guys only give me headaches."

She added, "Diet was lucky. I cared for him so much when we were still together. I think I actually spoiled him rotten. *Sobra kasal akong mag-asikaso.*"

Surprise party

To win her back, the actress hinted that Diether should be "more consistent" in expressing his feelings. "*Minsan, di ko nararamdaman. He should really make an effort,*" the actress said.

Kristine added that she was pleased to see Diether and her mother, Mai, getting along now. Her mom has been very vocal against Di-



ether. Last month, the two organized a surprise birthday party for Kristine.

The actress, her mom and two siblings, recently arrived from Hong Kong, where her father is based. "My dad couldn't join us because he was working," she said. "But we had fun."

Fish vendor

In "Banyera," Kristine plays Marining, who sells fish for a living.

"I had no trouble handling fish although I'd never done it before," Kristine related. "My first time to handle fish was when I went to Nepa Q-mart in Quezon City five years ago. I had gone to buy fish and pork, but the vendors didn't want me to pay for them. They only asked to pictures taken with me. That was fun."

TJ Trinidad, Kristine's leading man, portrays Eric, a jeepney driver.

To be effective in his role, TJ said he spent

four days with a group of drivers in Sucat, Parañaque City. "I tried driving a jeepney. I asked the drivers how much money they made and how much they

actually brought home," said TJ.

Also in the cast are Angelika dela Cruz, Rafael Rosell, Jacyl Jose, Allan Paule, Nonie Buencamino, Shamaine Buencamino, Lyka Ugarte, Lollie Mara, Neil Ryan Sese, Manicar de Mesa, Dino Imperial, Andrea, Kerchup Eusebio and Ping Medina. Andoy Ranay directs. "Prinsesa ng Banyera" premieres Oct. 8, after "Wowowee."



and Switzerland.

Performing with Billy are the Movers—his newly formed seven-member Pinoy dance group—plus Jay-R, Karylle and Kris Lawrence.

Oct. 9

Grand championship night of "Himagsikan, Makati Idol!" with The CompanyY and Keith Martin as guests at the University of Makati.

Oct. 12

The Apo, 8:30 p.m. at Music Museum, Greenhills. Call 891-9999. John Ford Coley at Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Manila.

Watch out for 'Watchout'

Apo in Lucena

The Apo Hiking Society, whose music has recently been revived in a two-volume tribute album featuring some of the most popular young bands in the country, performs tomorrow, 7:30 p.m., at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

In the three decades since launching its career, the Apo has recorded 22 albums; hosted several television shows, and performed in over 50 cities in the US, Canada, Singapore, Indonesia, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Japan.

Tickets are at P200, P400, P600 and P800. Call (042) 373-7146 or 0917-505-7271.

New high-tech widescreen

Christian Bautista's concert tomorrow, 8 p.m. at Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City, will utilize a state-of-the-art widescreen called "Watchout" for the first time on the local stage.

"Watchout" is a multi-display video projec-

tion technology whose dimension at 9 x 42 feet practically surrounds the stage. It is reportedly the same device Celine Dion uses in her ongoing show in Las Vegas.

"I want to offer something new to concertgoers this time around," says Christian. "The use of this technology will contribute a lot to the look of the show. With this system, we are only limited by our creativity and imagination."

Joining Christian in the concert are guests Toni Gonzaga and Sam Milby, with the special participation of Kuh Ledesma, Joni Vilanueva, Ticia Amper Jimenez, Sam Concepcion and Gary Valenciano. Call Ticketnet at 911 555 or 911 4087.

Billy Crawford at the Big Dome

Twenty-five-year-old Filipino-American pop artist Billy Crawford performs in his first and one-night-only concert tomorrow, 8 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum.

The gig, titled "It's Time," will showcase Billy's hip hop-influenced sound, which has won him recognition in France, Belgium, Germany



BILLY Crawford



GERARD Anderson and Kim Chiu

Lino Cayetano proves he's not just all hype

By Jayson B. Brizuela
Contributor

CONSIDERING THAT STAR CINEMA'S newest teen romantic comedy "I've Fallen for You" is, well, a teen romantic comedy, the movie is not bad at all, even for more mature audiences.

With all the predictability of a light-hearted movie that stars yet another young love team, this flick has one thing going for it: Lino Cayetano.

While many know him more for his romantic involvements than his directorial jobs, Cayetano's big-screen debut validates all the hype surrounding him.

While adhering to many tried, tested, and tired formulas, Cayetano is able to draw out some depth from a decidedly teeny-bopper movie.

A vehicle intended to further promote the love team of "Pinoy Big Brother" graduates Gerard Anderson and Kim Chiu, "Fallen" shows the two have a lot more than most onscreen pairings. Cayetano delivers the "goods" that

young audiences look for. His images are brighter and more colorful, even without the "gloss" lent by picture-perfect production design common to romantic flicks that try too hard to create "magic movie moments."

Big surprise

In fact, there's a conscious effort to make sets and situations real and believable, the better to capture scenarios that people of Kim and Gerard's age can identify with.

References to popular computer networking games, hobbies, as well as a "cos play" (a party where teenagers dress as their favorite anime characters) in the opening scene, are just some of the details that make this movie work better for its target audience.

The scriptwriting, though far from perfect, also helps create a contemporary and realistic feel. Overall, lines in both Filipino and English are written as they are spoken by real kids in real life.

The big surprise is Anderson. Between him and Kim, it's Anderson who gives the more lasting impression. Subtle facial movements convey what's on his mind, something that other stars can achieve only through overwritten dialogue or a plain, pained look.

Which should not diminish Kim's performance. Though *chinita* looks tend to limit her range of expressions, she does a remarkable job acting as the diligent daughter, the reluctant object of Gerard's affections, the playful kid, the giddy and blossoming young lady and the crushed, confused, and heart-broken teen.

True promise

But wait—there's more to this story than teenagers. The back story of Chun-Chin Gutierrez and Albert Martinez's characters is the better, more mature, part of the narrative.

It is here that Cayetano shows his true promise. Dramatic scenes and conflicts are handled lightly, in keeping with the

Honesty is still the best policy

THE RECENT "GLITCH" ON the "Wowowee" TV show remains an unresolved issue as of this writing. The program's staffers say it was an honest mistake, while its detractors believe otherwise. Some public officials have intimated that a probe is forthcoming, but that possibility remains inchoate.

In the meantime, viewers and prospective contestants are unable to achieve closure on this score—and that's a problem.

If other TV culture's experience can be taken as a guide, this question mark hanging over one game show could erode the viewing public's faith in the aboveboard conduct of other shows, as well.

In the United States decades ago, a popular quiz show lost public support when it was discovered that its champion contestant had been fed the correct answers by some of the show's insiders.

In no time at all, not only did the tainted show drop out of the tube, but other quiz and game shows also lost credibility—and viewership—"by association."

TV tempest

So, we hope that the current controversy is officially resolved, one way or the other. This isn't about just one program and only one "glitch," the TV teapot tempest has expanded to include rumors about other shows as well.

For instance, some people are marveling over the phenomenon of a new game show that awarded its top prize on its very first telecast. This could be a matter of sheer great luck on the part of the victorious contestant involved, but viewers have turned so cynical of late that, fairly or unfairly, doubts are being raised.

And what about whispers that a program host has been given the "discretion" to choose which contestants to reward with big prizes? Again, this can be mere speculation, but some people believe it, due to the cynical climate of the times.

Viewers complain

Other questions are raised about some queries asked in quiz programs or portions. Recently a contestant was thrown out because he didn't know the middle initial in the quizmaster's name. Since when did such personal and subjective trivia become an intelligent test of a contestant's knowledgeability?



Nestor U. Torre

As the conduct of quiz and game shows continues to be questioned, other viewers complain about the treatment of contestants on TV shows in general. They wonder why so many of them are pushed to tell heartbreaking sob stories, or to sing and dance wildly like out-of-tune buffoons or two-left-footed dervishes.

Sure, they get some financial rewards for their public humiliation—and, in fact, some of them may not even fee humiliated at all. But, the fact remains that human beings deserve more honorable treatment—even from themselves.

It's all done in the name of "entertainment," of course. But, the rule is: Having "fun" should never be done at the expense of anybody else other than the show biz professional involved (after all, it's his job to entertain, and he's getting paid well to do it).

As for "ord nary" people, they should never be made the butts of jokes, insults, confusing situations that throw them off and prompt them to make "funny" mistakes, etc. The buck stops there.

A specially itchy pox should befall program hosts who poke fun at elderly people. Oh, what fun they have dending old folks for their wrinkles, crooked backs, incomplete dentures, bald pates and "amoy upa" scent.

When the elderly contestants are made to sing and dance and do it badly, more colorful insults spew out of the "fun-loving" hosts' ugly and fetid mouths.

One suspects that, in a just and karmic universe, when these maligners of the elderly grow old themselves, all of their awful insults will boomerang and fall on them—in heaps and spades, in exponentially quantum quantities, amen.

A plea

Coming full circle, we return to our original premise and plea regarding the current controversy over game and quiz shows: Despite all recent evidence to the contrary, honesty is still the best policy. So, let's do what needs to be done to make game TV unimpeachably, absolutely credible again.

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LIVING STARS

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ASSUNTA DE ROSSI

Mio, my Teacup Yorkshire terrier, is almost a year old. He sleeps with me and my husband [Jules Ledesma]. He's the *bunso* [youngest] among our pets. Jules also has a one-and-a-half-year-old American cocker spaniel, Alf. [Stepdaughter] Ina has a two-year-old Maltese terrier, Bambi. Teacup Yorkies are very rare. It took me almost a year to find Mio. When he arrived in our home, he was just as big as my foot. He looked so fragile. Actually, he looked like a rat! I love his eyes and his rabbit ears. I take him everywhere—even to the taping of my new sitcom "Camera Café." He gets so thrilled when I babytalk to him. He gives me unconditional love.

TAIL TALES

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

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LAURICE GUILLEN

It's in the lanai room that the family usually hangs out. But when I'm not with them, I love sitting in the rocking chair by the window of this multi-purpose room. It's a great spot to read and our favorite nook.

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Written and directed by Lulu Conner Peterson and Neale Conners

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	15. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

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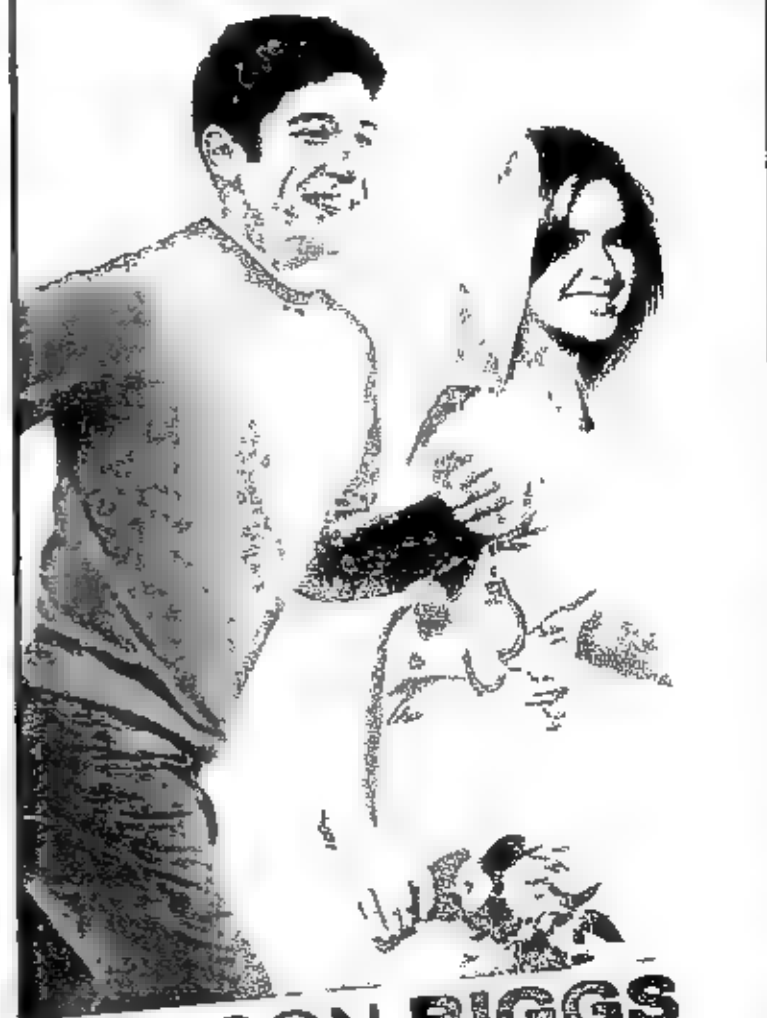
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LIVING

Mick could

LONDON—ROLLING Mick Jagger could have dancer or campaigner or African poverty in a said in a new interview revealing a penchant for shower.

The 64-year-old who two years on the road a bit of a rest."

The Stones, who played its first gig in 1962, have just completed its mammoth "A Bigger Bang" tour, a trip around the world that ended in London last August.

Answering questions, Jagger put to him in a view, Jagger insisted it was "very normal" who

"Same as everyone. I get up as late as possible, have breakfast as late as possible, do a tiny bit of the gym, go out for a walk, read a book... Have



STAR FOR OTHER

d have been ballet star

STONES STAR
e been a ballet
gned against
nother life, he
ew—while re-
singing in the
ed just finished
ed is "having

lunch with the kids. Go out dancing."
Dancing is clearly a passion for the
Stones front man, famous for his wild on-
stage gyrations.

Asked what he would be if not a rock
star, another kind of dancing comes to
mind. "Maybe I'd be in Africa trying to
help a beleaguered economy. Who
knows? Or probably an ex-ballet dancer
with bad knees."

His other ways of
relaxing include
watching Peter Sell-
ers as French detec-
tive Clouseau in the
Pink Panther movies.
"That can be really fun-
ny."

Singing is another way
to let off steam—includ-
ing in the shower.

"The thing about
shower songs is you
never quite know
what's going to
pop in," he
says.

AFP

HOBBIES

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MICK Jagger



RYZA Cenon with PGH patients

GMA 7 stars visit cancer survivors

RISEING GMA 7 STARS SHOWED THEIR SUPPORT
for Avon's advocacy against breast cancer recently by
visiting the company's Breast Care Center at the
Philippine General Hospital.

Despite heavy rains and
even heavier traffic, Ryza
Cenon, Vanessa del Moral,
Joseph Marco, Rich Asuncion
and Joy Velasco spent an after-
noon there with breast cancer
survivors.

Opportunity

"Opportunity ito para
makatulong ako sa mga taong
may pangangailangan (to help
people in need)," said Rich. "At
least, nakakapagpasaya ako (I
can make them happy)."

Ryza echoed the sentiment.
"Kahit di natin sila kaano-ano,
kailangan pa rin nito ng supor-
ta at takas ng toob (They're not
our relatives, but they could
use our support)," she said.

The stars joined the support
groups weekly games and other
activities for the patients.
For Joseph, the interaction was
meaningful. "I was inspired by
their fighting spirit."

Something good

Vaness stressed, "I'm con-
vinced we're doing something
really good."

Every year, Avon mounts
Walk Against Breast Cancer to
raise funds for its PGH center,
as well as hospitals in far-flung
areas. This year, the walk will
be held on Oct. 7 (Mall of Asia,
Manila), Oct. 14 (Baguio), and
Oct. 21 (Iloilo). Call 8642902
or 7513805.

LOS ANGELES—ACTOR
Nicolas Cage caught a thief
wearing one of his jackets in-
side his home in the middle
of the night and turned him
over to police, author-
ities said Tuesday.

Robert Furo
allegedly
broke into
Cage's
oceanfront
home in New-
Port Beach, 80
kilometers from L.A., said the
local district attorney's
spokeswoman Farrah Emami.

"Mr. Cage woke up and
escorted him outside," ap-
parently without a struggle,
called the police and had
him arrested, Emami said.

AFP

BOOKS



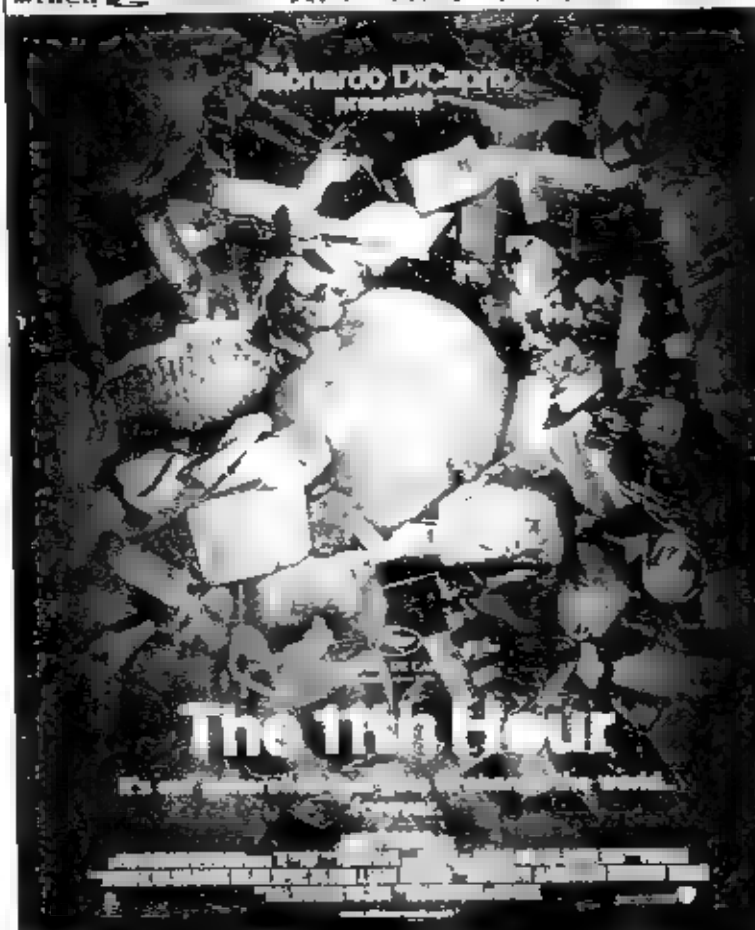
ISABELLA GONZALEZ

I pick up a lot of lessons from
"A Woman After God's Own
Heart" by Elizabeth George.
This book serves as an en-
couragement for people who
hope to have a heart like King
David [in the Old Testa-
ment]. He was strong be-
cause he sought the Lord.
There is a sense of stillness in
the book: Even if the world is

chaotic, we can find peace
and wisdom. I'll recommend
it to other people because it
shows us how God wants us
to live. It tells us how our
hearts should respond to situ-
ations. It helps us become
better Christians.

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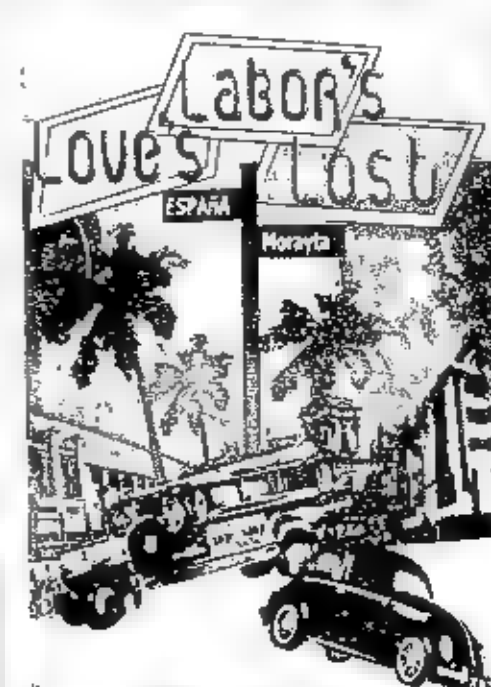
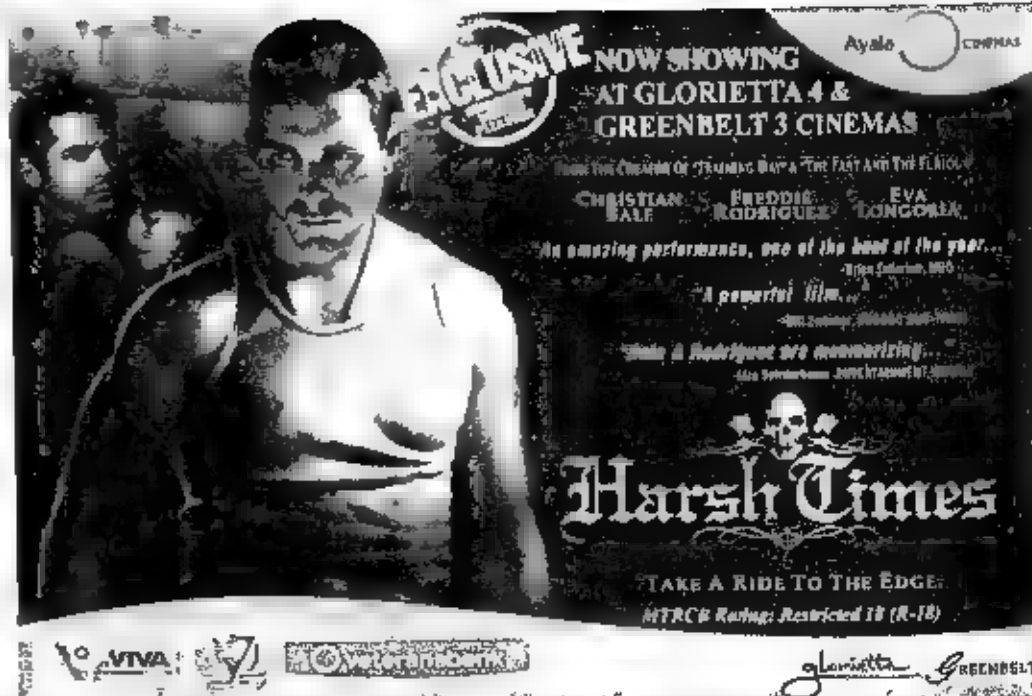
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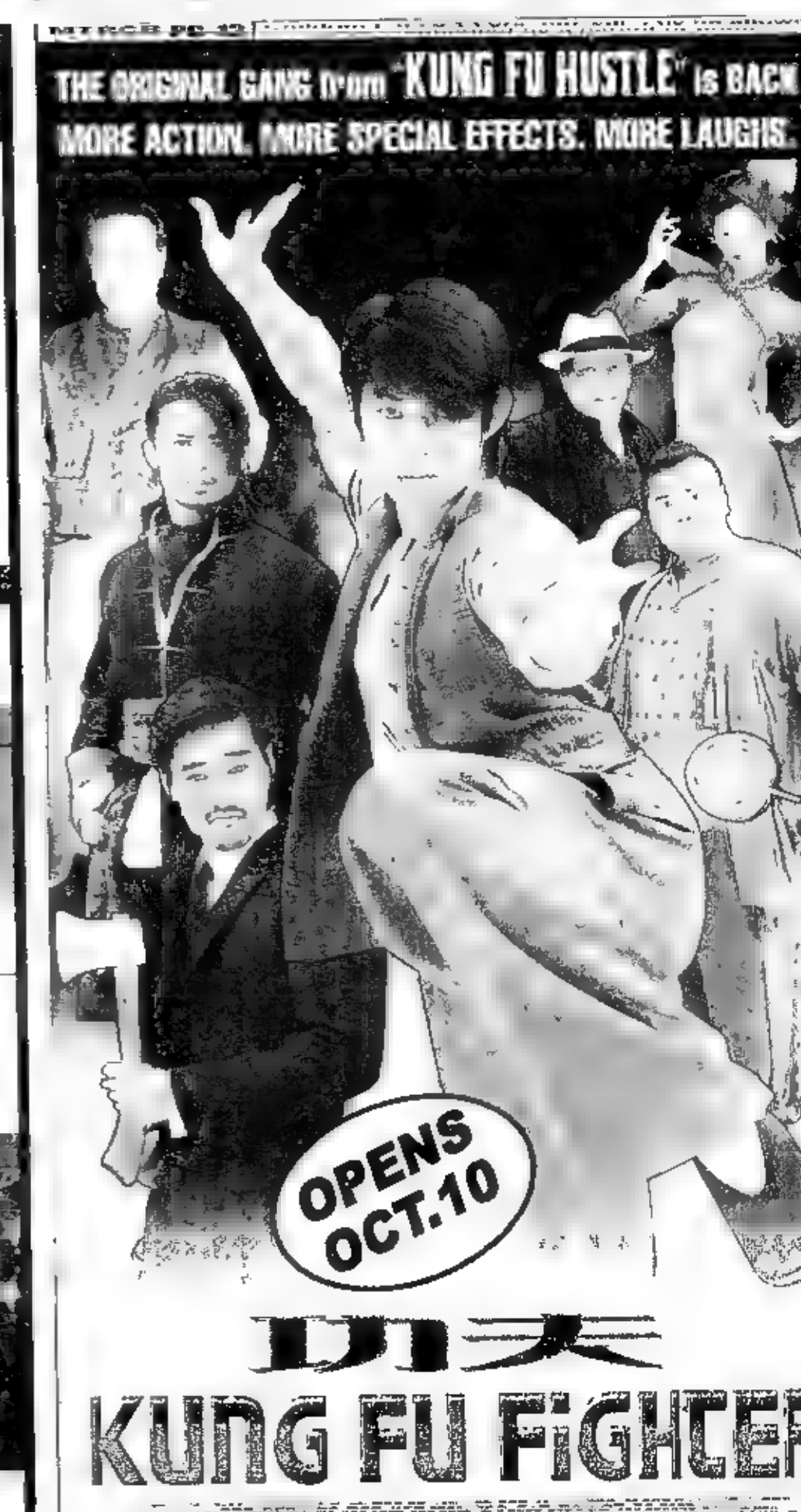
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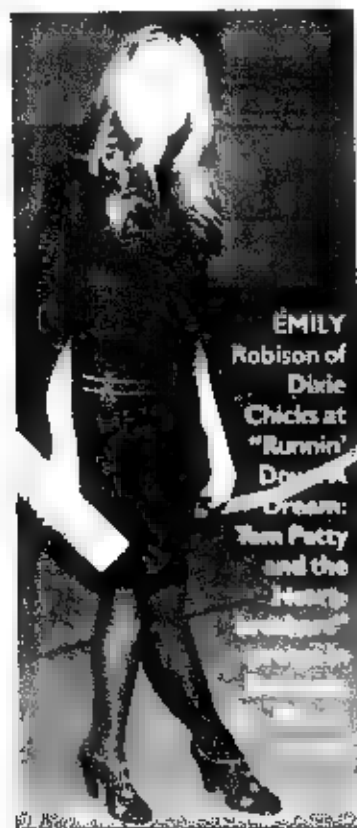
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RED CARPET

CATE Blanchett in Universal City for "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" gala night, Oct. 1. REUTERS



EMILY Robison of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* at "Runnin' Down Dream: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers" opening night, Sept. 28. REUTERS



HEATHER Graham at NY Film Festival for "The Darjeeling Limited" opening night, Sept. 28. REUTERS



OUT OF THE CLOSET

Wendy wore those silver chandelier earrings on her *Turn to P.B.*

Color her world

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romy Romillada

MY FANS SUPPORT ME. With them, I'm sure it's not true that the whole country hates me," Wendy Valdez, controversial "Pinoy Big Brother Season 2" housemate, tells *Living Stars*.

In fact, Wendy says, her fans shower her with gifts—clothes, perfumes, cosmetics, accessories and books. They also send food to the set of her ABS-CBN soap, "Marganya."

Wendy incurred the ire of PBB viewers after quarreling with two female housemates, Ge-Ann Abraham and Bea Saw. During the PBB "Big Night" at the Araneta Coliseum, Wendy had to beg the crowd to stop booing her.

Since she joined show biz, Wendy says she's had to beef up her wardrobe. "Also, I used to just go for blacks, whites and browns; now I have other colors, too."

ACCESSORIES

I prefer to wear only earrings, but now I have lots of accessories... for work. Fans who knew from the TV show that I love earrings sent a couple over.

One pair that is memorable to me is the one I wore when I returned to the House (shows a pair of silver chandelier earrings). I'd rather wear big earrings than necklaces. Big earrings divert people's attention from my big ears (laughs).

Big belts make the waist look slimmer, especially when you put the buckle on the side. If I had my way I wouldn't buy belts in colors other than white, black or brown because I will not be able to reuse them on TV.

SCENTS

My newest bottle of Clinique Happy Heart is a gift from a group of fans. The citrus scent goes well with my body

THIS bottle of Clinique Happy Heart is one of many gifts from fans.

chemistry. I alternately use this with my other favorites, Dolce and Gabbana's Light Blue and DKNY's Be Delicious.

SHOES

I always end up buying black or white shoes whenever I shop. But I think I should start buying shoes in other colors, too, like light blue, red or green.

When wearing high-heeled shoes, you should put your weight on your toes, not on your heels. This helps you avoid straining your legs. When you get used to it, you can even walk on pebbled steps.

BAGS

I got most of my bags in Bangkok. They're so cheap I used to like small bags, but now that I'm working, I get to use only the big ones. I like putting all the things I need in one bag.

DRESSES

This black-and-gold dress is memorable because I wore it when Bruce (Quebral, PBB housemate and Wendy's boyfriend) got evicted. I didn't like the red tube dress that Mommy bought for me but it got a lot of compliments.

My ABS-CBN bosses instructed me to buy dresses for TV appearances. I noticed that the outfits I picked were mostly halter and really low V-necks. I also have a couple of pieces that fans gave me.

JEANS

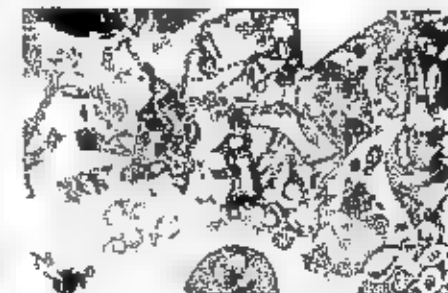
I love jeans. They are easy to wear and can be matched with just about any blouse or dress. I used to have trouble looking for nice boot-cut jeans because most of them are too short for me. I'm glad that skinny jeans are in fashion now. *Pwede kahit bitin.*

SKIRTS

I hardly wear skirts. But I'm thinking of the perfect occasion to wear a couple of knitted ones from a fan.



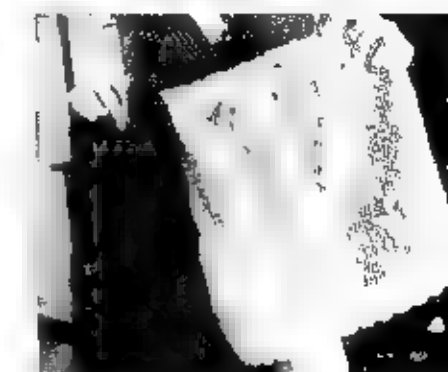
BIG earrings take away attention from her big ears, she jests.



ACCESSORIES are essentials in her brand-new job.



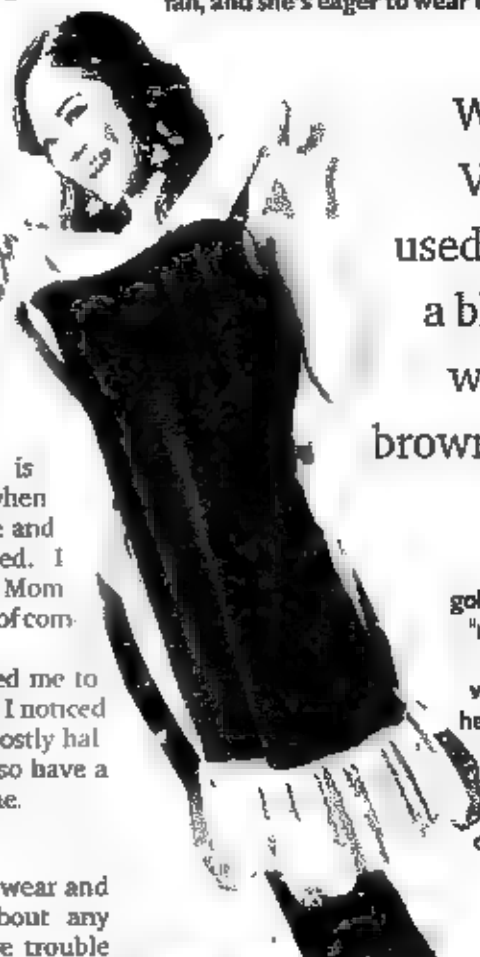
WHEN wearing high-heels, avoid straining the legs by putting your weight on the toes, the expert says.



THESE knitted skirts were given by a fan, and she's eager to wear them.

Wendy Valdez used to be a blacks, whites, browns girl

THIS black-gold number is "memorable" because she wore it when her boyfriend, Bruce Quebral, was thrown out of Kuya's House.



WENDY loves skinny jeans.



SHE prefers big bags to these cute ones now, because she carries a lot of stuff.



SHE has beefed up her wardrobe with lots of halter and "really low" V-necks.

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3	REKING HARRY 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
4	WEDDING BAZE 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13

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THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE
STARDUST
IN THEATERS OCTOBER 10

PNP puts surveillance cameras in 56 Metro areas to monitor crime

Murder in paradise: Green groups up in arms

By Marlon Ramos, *Inquirer Southern Luzon* and TJ Burgonio

GREEN GROUPS YESTERDAY DEMANDED justice for slain environment activist Armin Marin and called for an end to mining explorations on pristine Sibuyan Island.

Home to the densest forest in the world, MURDER/A8

Democracy icon Suu Kyi considers talks offered by Burma's military generals

Foreign exchange reserves rose to \$30.7B in September due to 'hot money' inflow

George Clooney, sexiest man alive as political animal



Saturday, October 6, 2007

*** 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 300 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

No kidding, hamsters beat jet lag with Viagra

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS—Scientists who discovered that Viagra helps hamsters overcome jet lag and managed to extract vanila flavoring from cow



Manny Pacquiao's weight a big mystery

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—TODAY'S OFFICIAL weigh-in for both Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera has taken on the air of a mystery thriller.

The suspense mounted as both fighters kept their exact poundage a tightly guarded secret ahead of the official weigh test.

The weigh-in is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. today at the Events Center of Mandalay, where the Pacquiao-Barrera rematch will be staged on Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Who between Pacquiao and Barrera is telling the truth?

Pacquiao, 28, appeared headed for another breeze through the scales with his handlers claiming he had already hit peak form two weeks ahead of the fight.

Barrera, 33, submitted his piece of the puzzle during a press conference on Wednesday when he declared he was through with trimming down and training.

"We don't do anything, we're done working, we just wait for the fight," Barrera declared through an interpreter.

That was easy to believe because the unruffled Barrera came to the presscon in black suit and red tie with the calm

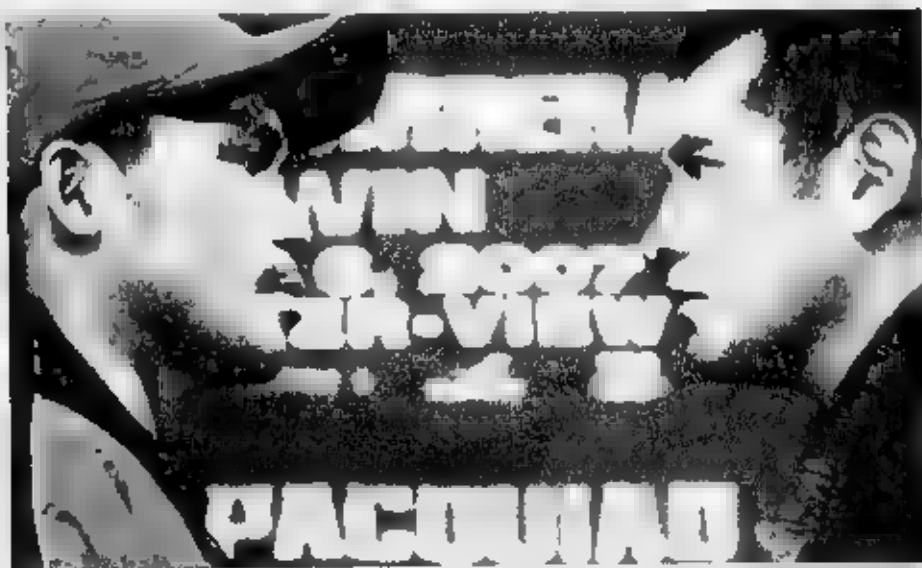
and dignity of an accomplished top executive.

He also stayed behind to accommodate requests for interviews from various media outfits.

"I have to get my revenge," the Mexican said, according to Agence France-Presse.

Pacquiao, in red work-out outfit, rushed out of the Blues Room of the Mandalay Bay and headed for the IBA gym to again work up a sweat, a follow-up to another brisk jog in the morning.

Pacquiao obviously overstayed in the gym as he reported back to his home. MANNY PACQUIAO'S A8



IT'S STRICTLY PERSONAL: "I have to get my revenge," Marco Antonio Barrera (right) says of the rematch with Filipino hero Manny Pacquiao. REUTERS

GMA muzzles Cabinet

'Desperate' slur deleted but Fil-Ams not satisfied

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—A SPOKESPERSON for ABC television network said the remark made by Teri Hatcher's character in a recent episode of "Desperate Housewives" maligning Filipino health professionals would be deleted.

Charissa Gilmore, ABC vice president for media relations said on Thursday (Friday in Manila) that the entire episode had been removed from digital platform and would not be available for viewing "until edits have been made."

The producers of the American TV series have started the process of editing out the controversial scene in the DESPERATE/A6

Cory a victim, too; son hits 'insensitive' joke

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Miko Morelos

NO "MAMA" JOKES FOR NOYNOY.

Sen. Benigno Aquino III denounced as "insensitive" and "in extremely poor taste" the joke played on his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, in the hit US television show "The Daily

CORY/A6



INDIA'S PRESIDENT Pratibha Patil (right) and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo with full military honors upon her arrival at the presidential palace in New Delhi on Friday, the second day of her three-day state visit. AP

President revives ancient RP-India ties

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW DELHI (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday sought to revive the Philippines' ancient ties with India even as she called on the two countries' leaders to "move the integration of our economies forward."

The President was accorded full mili-

tary honors when she arrived here on the second day of a three-day state visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

Indian President Pratibha Patil, India's first woman chief of state, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh were on hand to receive Ms Arroyo in elaborate ceremonies at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Sanskrit for presidential palace), a magnifi-

cent colonial structure with massive columns, verandas and balconies incorporating traditional Indian motifs.

Ms Arroyo's visit here is the second in 10 years by a Philippine President. President Fide Ramos visited India in 1997.

"India has played a very important influence on the culture of the Philippines way PRESIDENT/A10

President confirms Neri report of bribery

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW DELHI (VIA PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would invoke executive privilege to prevent Cabinet members from talking about privileged communications, including previous discussions on the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"It's a matter of discipline," the President said in a first ever no-holds-barred interaction with members of the Malacañang Press Corps accompanying her on a three-day visit to India.

She also admitted for the first time that then Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri had informed her of a supposed bribery attempt of then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

"Yah, I can confirm that," she GMA/A17

Chilean dictator's widow, 5 children arrested over loot

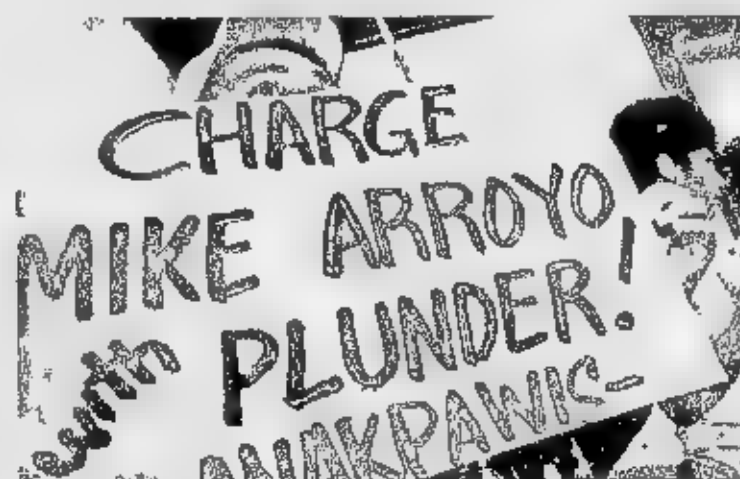
SANTIAGO—CHILEAN AUTHORITIES on Thursday arrested the widow and five children of former dictator Augusto Pinochet for their role in the alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars stashed in US accounts.

"There are well-founded assumptions ... that these people participated in this crime," said Judge Carlos Cerda

who ordered the arrests.

Reacting to the announcement, President Michelle Bachelet stressed that Chile "is a country where no one is above the law."

Pinochet's widow, Lucia Hiriart, and one of her sons, Marco Antonio Pinochet, filed a writ of habeas corpus, CHILEAN/A17



SPECIAL DELIVERY: A subpoena from the Filipino people is ostensibly delivered by militant groups for Mike Arroyo (right) at the family-owned LTA Building in Makati City. It summons Mr. Arroyo et al. to tell the truth about the highly irregular NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp. REM ZAMORA



Palace staff pocketed P455,000 from PCSO?

By Christine O. Avendaño

SHE RECEIVED A P460,000-CHECK as donation but received only P5,000. Where did the rest of the money go?

Malacañang wanted to know as well and yesterday ordered an inves-

tigation into a complaint of a woman who claimed that the liaison officer in the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Religious Affairs had given her P5,000 to help her ailing daughter out of a check that amounted to P460,000. PALACE/A10

NO REMORSE, NO SENSE OF SHAME Ties that bind also blind kin of officials in hot seat

By Volt Contreras

WHETHER THE ALLEGATIONS that painted Benjamin Abalos Sr. to a corner are true or not, or whether he quit the chairmanship of the Commission on Elections in order to prevent bigger personalities from being dragged into

the broadband scandal, is yet to be ascertained.

But the doleful family picture that framed Abalos' teary-eyed yet unapologetic resignation last week already said a lot about the way public officials confront mounting pressure for them to step down.

Apart from the oft-cited "culture of impunity," the ties that bind—or sometimes blind—Filipino families enable embattled officials to hang tough in the face of widespread public indignation, according to social scientists interviewed by the INQUIRER.

TIES THAT BIND/A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Babuyan Islands and the Balayan Group of Islands will experience stormy weather and the coastal waters along these areas will be rough to very rough while Cagayan, Aboitiz and Ilocos Norte will have rain and gusty winds and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon will be cloudy with scattered rain showers and thundershowers becoming frequent rains over Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. Visayas and Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thundershowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Palawan	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Rosario	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Busy Winds	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Luzon	Cloudy with Rains	Tagbilaran	Partly Cloudy
Clerk Zeno	Cloudy with Rains	San. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Laguna	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

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5 13 14 15 25 43

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Quick trial for Marcoses sought

PCGG to invoke law used on Erap

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government (PCGG) is seeking a speedy resolution of some 300 ill-gotten wealth cases against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his close relatives so that most of these can be concluded before the end of the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The PCGG is confident that with RA 8493, or the Speedy Trial Act of 1998, it can get the courts to schedule more trial dates for the Marcos cases, said PCGG Commissioner Nicasio Conti.

He said RA 8493 helped the state prosecutors in securing the relatively short six-year trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada who was convicted last month for plunder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The government has been pursuing the Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases for the past 21 years, through four administrations, with not a single criminal conviction to show for it.

"Erap was tried under the

Speedy Trial Act. But when the Marcos cases started, RA 8493 had not yet been enacted," Conti explained.

That is why "to date, not a single respondent in the criminal cases stemming from the plunder committed during the Marcos regime has been put to jail," he said.

The difference between the conduct of the two cases is that the Marcos ill-gotten wealth cases were "grand corruption involving billions of dollars that spanned more than two decades" while the Estrada's crimes were committed during his 30 months in office as President, Conti said.

He said the litigation of the Marcos cases was far more complex and tedious because a majority of them involved assets deposited abroad unlike the Estrada ill-gotten assets which were concentrated in the Philippines.

But Conti expressed confidence "with this momentum gained after the resolution of the Estrada cases, we'll be able to come up eventually with a road map to provide closure to all the pending Marcos cases."

The PCGG expects the majority of the civil cases to be resolved before the end of Ms Arroyo's term.

He said the criminal cases are still at the presentation of witnesses stage but with RA 8493 in operation, the trial dates should be close together.

For instance, one of the criminal cases has been scheduled in succession for Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 6.

According to Conti, the PCGG is "fighting an uphill battle as Marcos cronies resort to all sorts of dilatory tactics while they enjoy the fruits of their perfidy."

The agency is also operating on a limited budget as Congress has allocated only P86 million for PCGG operations next year. It asked for a P120 million.

But Conti said the PCGG hopes to achieve more tangible results with "practical approaches."

One of these is entering into amicable settlements which, he stressed, "should not be disadvantageous to the government, not contrary to law, morals, public policy and public order and should be subject to public scrutiny and final approval of the court."

Court grants Erap new leave

By Jerome Aning

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YES-terday allowed jailed former President Joseph Estrada to visit his ailing mother again on Monday.

The court also said it would hear on Oct. 19 the oral arguments for the motion for reconsideration that Estrada filed in seeking to overturn his conviction for plunder last month.

Presiding Justice Teresita de Castro gave a verbal consent to Estrada's request for another visit as proffered by

his lawyer Jose Flaminiano, but did not state how long the visit would last. Prosecutors posed no objection to the request.

The court gave its approval ahead of a submission of a formal motion from the Estrada camp expected either late yesterday afternoon or on Monday.

It was the second time that the Sandiganbayan allowed Estrada to leave house arrest after convicting him of plunder and sentencing him to life in prison.

Estrada has been increas-

ingly worried about the health of his 102-year-old mother Mary Ejercito since he last visited her on Sept. 30 at the San Juan Medical Center, Flaminiano told the tribunal.

The matriarch has been confined at the hospital since Aug. 10 due to breathing difficulties and hypertension.

Flaminiano said that Estrada saw his mother depending on a life-support system and was told by family physician Dr. Lorenzo Hocson that her condition was critical.

Press groups rally behind PDI reporter

By Alcuin Papa

JOURNALISTS' GROUPS YES-terday expressed concern over moves of senators to cite a reporter in contempt for refusing to reveal her sources, have a newspaper investigated and amend or repeal the law protecting confidential news.

The National Press Club said the senators were barking up the wrong tree while the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines branded the moves as forms of intimidation and violations of the principles of press freedom.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer last Sunday published a story written by Jubel Labog-Javellana

quoting unnamed sources describing how Sen. Joker Arroyo moved to block the testimony of former Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri during an executive session of the Senate.

Arroyo has filed a resolution seeking to investigate the Inquirer for publishing the report. Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Benigno Aquino III and Francis Escudero supported Arroyo's resolution. Enrile suggested that Javellana be cited for contempt unless she revealed her sources.

Tinkering with the law

The 55-year-old NPC said Enrile and Arroyo should refrain from "tinkering" with Republic Act 53, otherwise known as the Sotto Law or the Press Freedom Law, that seeks to protect journalists from being compelled to

reveal confidential sources.

"Why are they going to punish media for the sin of some of their colleagues in the Senate or some members of the executive who violate the Senate rules on executive session?" the NPC said in a statement.

The NPC suggested that the Senate investigate its own members and sanction those responsible for the "leak" instead of looking at the media as a scapegoat.

Roy Mahasa, NPC president, said it would be a mistake for the Senate to repeal or amend the law since it was meant to protect both the freedom of the press and the freedom of speech. He added that repealing or amending the law would serve to deter citizens and officials from going to the press to expose irregularities in government.

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probe will have to wait

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NOT SO FAST
on break, House tells Senate

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REBEL SOLDIERS
call AFP chief 'Mr. Esperon'

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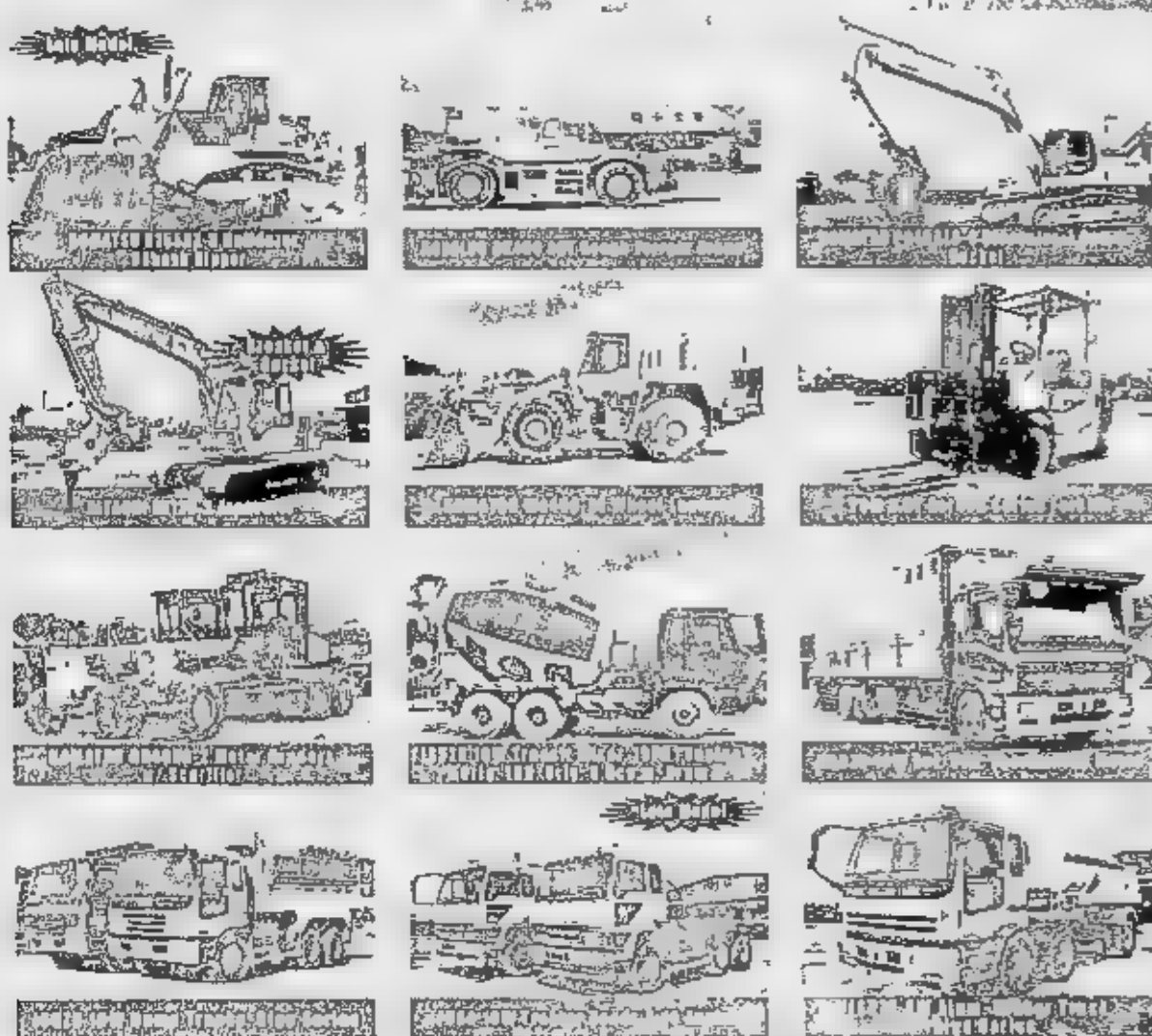
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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Supreme Court of the Philippines announces the opening of the position of **COURT ADMINISTRATOR** vice Hon. Christopher O. Lock who will be retiring on October 25, 2007.

Applicants/recommendees must possess the following qualifications.

1. have the same qualifications as Justice of the Court of Appeals, per Sec. 3 of PD 978 (Creating the Office of the Court Administrator in the Supreme Court and Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes); and Sec. 7 (1), Art. VIII of the Constitution, which states:

No person shall be appointed Member of the Supreme Court or any lower collegiate court unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines. x x x must be at least forty years of age, and must have been for fifteen years or more a judge of a lower court or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines;

2. be of proven competence, integrity, probity and industry;
3. possess a track record as an administrator or an executive, and
4. commit to stay in the office up to age 65 or for a period of at least five (5) years considering that this is a career position, an end job.

In case of recommendation, the recommendee shall conform with the recommendation. Applications/recommendations must be submitted **NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 16, 2007, at 12:00 P.M. to:**

ATTY. MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court, Supreme Court
Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 523-6558 FAX No. 525-3208

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court

Not so fast on break, House tells Senate

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE House of Representatives yesterday said the Senate would have to reconvene next week as the House has yet to give its consent to the Senate's request that it already be allowed to go on a recess.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor told reporters that under the rules of the bicameral Congress, one chamber may not go on a break for more than three days without the consent of the other.

Defensor said Senate President Manuel Villar has sent a letter to the House asking for its consent for the Senate to go on a break until Nov. 3. Defensor, however, said the House has yet

to respond and give its consent.

"It is possible that they will reconvene and tackle the postponement of the barangay elections but I doubt it," Defensor said.

"Most likely, they will just have one senator there who would act as Senate President and one who would act as majority leader. They will just open and close the session," he added.

With a session on Tuesday, Defensor said the Senate can well go on recess on Friday or three days after.

"I've long given up on the Senate taking on the postponement of the barangay elections," Defensor said. *Norman Bordadora*

By Christian V. Esguerra

ALBAY REP EDCEL LAGMAN wants to increase the family planning budget to between P1 and P1.5 billion.

"We cannot achieve genuine and sustainable human development if we continue to default in addressing the population problem," he said in his sponsorship speech for the General Appropriations Bill.

Congress has started deliberations on the proposed P1.227 trillion national budget for 2008.

Lagman, the chair of the powerful committee on appropriations, has thrown the highly contentious population management issue in the thick of the budget deliberations.

He noted that while the P1.227 trillion budget was the

highest in Philippine history, it earmarked only P1.199 billion for women and child health program, the key components of the government's population management and reproductive health initiatives.

Of the amount, a total of P180 million was allocated for family planning and another P924 million for "maternal health and safe motherhood," according to a two-page document titled "2008 Family Health Office Budgetary Requirements."

In an interview with the *Inquirer*, Lagman clarified that his advocacy for reproductive health and other population-related issues were not limited to introducing artificial family planning methods.

"All we want is to create an en-

vironment of freedom of informed choice," he said. "It is a reproductive health program without bias for artificial or natural methods. We're promoting both."

In the 13th Congress, Lagman became the scrooge of the Catholic Church hierarchy and pro-life advocates for introducing a population management bill.

He revived the initiative in the present Congress in the form of the proposed "Reproductive Health, Responsible Parenthood and Population Development Act of 2007."

Lagman said there was a "direct connection" between the national budget and the country's growing population.

With a population of 88 million, the Philippines is now the 12th most populous nation in the world.

"No amount of trickling effect will be felt because there is a multitude of expectant beneficiaries," he said, referring to the individual share (per capita) of each Filipino in the national budget.

Lagman urged his colleagues to come up with a "categorical political statement, but this time couple with appropriate allocations," in the areas of reproductive health, responsible parenthood and population development.

"It is beyond debate that a huge population growth rate like the Philippines' 2.34 percent impacts adversely on all indicators of human development such as health, education, shelter, food security, employment, and the environment," he said.

Pro-life advocates said the population growth rate was 1.9 percent.

Rebel soldiers call AFP chief 'Mr. Esperon'

By Nikko Dizon

THE 28 DETAINED MARINE AND ARMY Scout Ranger officers accused of plotting to oust the government yesterday challenged military chief, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., to answer various allegations, including the military's alleged involvement in the 2004 poll fraud, which were tantamount to "destroying the very essence of democracy."

Addressing the chief of staff, a four-star general, merely as "Mister," the group distributed a manifesto to the media during their general court-martial hearing at Camp Capimpin in Tanay, Rizal, containing a number of questions that they said "Mr. Esperon" should confront.

"Who cried unabashedly in front of national viewers when his mentor announced that she will not cover the Presidency again?" "Who was mentioned in the 'Hello, Garci' tapes?" "Who debased the Armed Forces of the Philippines by being party to cheating, stealing and lying?" were among the questions in the manifesto.

"Never in the history of the Armed Forces of the Philippines has one man and his criminal gang brought so much shame to our beloved organization," the group said.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, however, dismissed the unsigned manifesto.

War of words

"It's a well-crafted piece of literature in form but in substance, it's mere fiction," Bacarro said.

The group, which includes former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, ex-Scout Ranger chief, Bng. Gen. Danilo Lim, and Marine Col. Arie. Querubin, was accused of staging a mutiny in February last year which prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of national emergency.

The war of words between Esperon and the Tanay group began almost two weeks ago when the military chief implicated the group in a fresh plot to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

A week later, Lim denounced the refusal of the Armed Forces to allow Miranda to seek medical treatment.

Esperon retorted by saying that "destabilizers" do not have the privilege of having an executive checkup. (Miranda is now confined at the V Luna Medical Center in Quezon City and is undergoing various laboratory tests.)

For calling their clients "destabilizers," defense lawyers sought the dissolution of the general court-martial.

Trixie Cruz-Angeles, counsel for Scout Ranger Capt. Ruben Guinobay, argued that the court has lost its jurisdiction over the case since Esperon has already prejudged the case by his Sept. 25 statement calling the group "destabilizers out to grab power."

As the chief of staff, Esperon is the reviewing authority of the general court-martial.

Librarians' seminar

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF Academic and Research Librarians (Paarl) will hold a seminar on "3rd Generation Library Management: Realities and Challenges, to Deal or not to Deal" on Oct. 17-19 at Hotel Sea Breeze, San Juan Street, Bacolod City.

The seminar will touch on the latest concepts in library administration, interactive budgeting, high-tech marketing, intensifying library resources, core competencies, performance evaluation, user-oriented services and effective communication for librarians and information professionals.

Participation in Bacolod's famous Masskara festival is part of the cultural tour.

For more information, Paarl president Marieta Molina may be reached through fax 735-9406 or e-mail at marieta.molina@yahoo.com; Loreto Garcia, Paarl vice president, at tel. 531-8031 or e-mail at loreto.garcia@jru.edu, or Christopher Paras, secretary, at tel. 781-6357 or e-mail at ccparas.and@yahoo.com

Dahil sa bagong



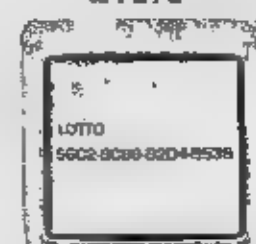
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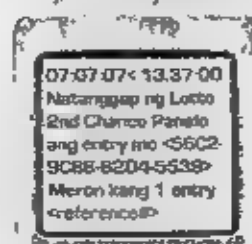
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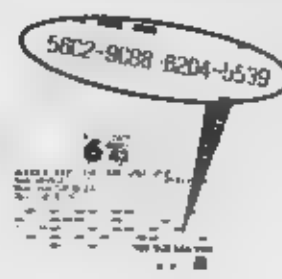


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FOR VLS/MIN TICKETS V1
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C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket

D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers

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15-digit lotto ticket is the last 15 numbers in the 35-digit ticket number. Ex: LOTTO 3690000015104-5

B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM/DD/YY < Message. Natanggap ng lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry no <15-digit ticket>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag dalin ng prize. 18 years old patas lang ang pwedeng sumali

C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket

D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers

4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.

5. Prizes above P10,000 subject to government tax.

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P50,000	4	2
P60	40	40



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007

Deleted line cripples generics law

By Christian V. Esguerra

CAN A NINE-WORD SENTENCE IN THE law make a difference in the lives of 88 million Filipinos?

The House of Representatives' committee version of the cheaper medicines bill has dropped a key provision in the Generics Act of 1988, which has kept patients from availing of lower-priced drugs.

The statement—"the brand name may be included if so desired"—was deleted in the omnibus bill, ostensibly to revive the essence of the once-promising piece of legislation.

The provision—which allowed doctors to write in their prescriptions branded medicines besides the generic name—is widely blamed for the failure of the law to make a dent in local pharmaceutical market, which continued to be dominated by giant multinational companies.

"This crippled the Generics Law," Deputy

Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros told the INQUIRER yesterday, the day after the committee on trade approved the omnibus cheaper medicines bill.

Rep. Arthur Pingoy, chair of the committee on health, agreed, saying the provision went against the "spirit" of the Generics Law.

By allowing doctors to also prescribe a brand name on top of the generic name, the law unwittingly leads patients to higher-priced medicines in every trip to the drug store, he said.

The Generics Act was meant to allow the public to choose from among the branded versions of a particular generic name. Without bias for any specific brand, patients would naturally go for the cheapest one.

Hontiveros said patients were led to believe that they should—and could—go only for branded medicines despite the obvious discrepancy in prices compared to generic drugs.

Another acknowledged reality was that lobbying by pharmaceutical companies,

through their medical representatives, helped lead doctors to include their respective brands in prescriptions.

Should the amendment to the Generics Law survive the bicameral conference on the cheaper medicines bill, Hontiveros said its impact would immediately be felt by ordinary Filipinos each time they purchased their prescription drugs.

The amendment was part of the "Noah's Ark" approach adopted by the committee to address the problem of high-priced medicines in the country.

The omnibus bill, a summary of the fine points of 23 cheaper medicines measures submitted in the 14th Congress, also amended the Intellectual Property Code to allow parallel importation of cheaper drugs.

Another feature in the bill was the establishment of an interim drug price regulatory board, which would map out an operational plan setting price ceilings on medicines within a year.

Mga atraso ni Erap kay bilis naman nating makalimot...



October 2007. Foundation for Worldwide People Power

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Corrections

IN LATER EDITIONS OF THE OCT. 5 ISSUE, the byline of a front page commentary—"When governance fails: Murder in Sibuyan"—misstated the name of the vice chair of WWR-Philippines. The vice chair's name is Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan—not Jose Ma. Lorenzo.

IN THE OCT. 5 ISSUE, an "In the Know" on Page A16 misstated the name of a source. The name of an environmental conservation organization based in North America is World Wildlife Fund—not World Wild Fund for Nature. While the international conservation organization had changed its name from World Wildlife Fund to World Wide Fund for Nature, the North American group retained the old name. To avoid confusion, the international organization now prefers to be called simply as "WWF," the global conservation organization.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 6, 2007
26th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29
Gospel: Luke 10:17-24

The seventy-two disciples returned full of joy. They said, "Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we called on your name." Then Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. You see, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the Enemy, so that nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the evil spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven."

At that time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and made them known to the little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. I have been given all things by my Father, so that no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said to them privately, "Fortunate are you to see what you see, for I tell you that many prophets and kings would have liked to see what you see but did not, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Commentary
The prophet cries out to the people that they find themselves in such dire straits as slaves because of their disobedience to the Lord. God let their enemies take them and yet God is like a widow mourning her lost children, who always remembers them and only waits for them to call out for him. He waits to give them joy and save them—if only they would cry out to God! Do we seek God at all times—the hard ones and the good ones—knowing that God is with us always, and that what we do either causes God to grieve over us or rejoice?

The disciples return from their mission and they are exuberant at what they have been able to accomplish in the name of the Lord. They get carried away with what they have done but Jesus reminds them that what is important is that they must be the least of God's children so that they may learn the wisdom of God the Father and the Son. We must be like the child of God, Jesus before his Father, our Father. And Jesus seeks to reveal his beloved Father to us. Are we listening or too wrapped up in our own works?

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[illegible]

Cory a victim, too; Noynoy hits 'insensitive' joke

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From page A1

Show with Jon Stewart."

"It is sad that while adding humor to such an important issue, the producers of the show chose to use pictures that were disrespectful, insensitive and in extremely poor taste," the young Aquino said of the show, which has won two Peabody awards and several Emmys.

"The Daily Show," known for its comedic interpretation of the news, last week featured a picture of Aquino, an icon of Philippine democracy, with the label "slut."

The segment, hosted by Samantha Bee, asked: Is America ready for a woman president?

Bee was seen browsing what looked like a mock perezhilton.com, a popular celebrity gossip website, glossing over pictures of world leaders like Aquino, Prime Ministers Golda Meir of Israel and Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain.

Aquino, as Bee browsed the website, was seen graffiti-ed with hearts and labelled "slut" in a handwritten scrawl. Thatcher, meanwhile, had her face placed on the body of US pop singer Britney Spears, photographed getting out of the car without underwear.

The British government, so far, has not issued any protest on the segment.

Prospect of US woman president

The episode was aired over Comedy Central on Sept. 22, eight days before the season premiere of popular drama series "Desperate Housewives" over ABC which used Philippine medical education for a punchline and drew protests from Filipinos worldwide.

The young Aquino said he understood



CORY ON YOUTUBE

that the joke "was intended for American viewers who are facing the possibility of having a woman president."

The prospect of a female president has been a staple of US comedy shows.

New York Sen. Hillary Clinton is in the forefront of Democratic presidential nominations, alongside Illinois Sen. Barack Obama and former presidential candidate John Edwards. The US presidential election is set for 2008.

Prayers from Cory

"My mom only wishes to convey that she will include those who made this video in her prayers," the young Aquino said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said she will also ask Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to instruct the Philippine Embassy in the United States to send a note verbae to the US State Department to protest the slur made on Aquino.

'Desperate' slur deleted ...

From page A1

show's Sept. 30 episode

In a related development, ABC yesterday sought a dialog with Filipino-American groups, which had earlier announced plans to hold pickets in front of the ABC offices in New York City, Burbank and Virginia.

Robert Mendez, the network's vice president for diversity and talent development, was set to meet with the groups' representatives at the Trump Plaza Hotel in New York City one hour before the 6 p.m. protest rally.

Protest actions

The Fil-Am groups welcomed the dialog but vowed to continue protest actions against the giant network.

"We will organize pickets and other protest actions until ABC takes concrete steps to correct their mistake," said Arnelo S. Valera, legal counsel for the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (Nafcon) and executive director for the Washington DC-based Migrant Heritage Commission.

Valera said Mendez promised to "seriously" consider the groups' demands, including a broadcast public apology, cultural sensitivity training for network staff, more shows depicting Filipinos and other minority groups as "prominent, positive role models," and support for Fil-Am projects that will strengthen diversity awareness.

The network had already met Nafcon's earlier demand to immediately edit out the controversial scene in which Hatcher's character tells her doctor: "OK, before we go any further, can I check those diplomas? Because I would just like to make sure they are not from some med school in the Philippines."

ABC had also issued an apology on Thursday (Friday in Manila). But Nafcon said the

one-paragraph apology was "not proportionate to the damage [the show] has caused."

In a statement e-mailed yesterday to the INQUIRER, Nafcon spokesperson Rico Poz said "The simplistic nature of ABC's apology only insults our community even more. It is not proportionate to the damage it has caused. It is basically just a one-paragraph response, not just to the second largest immigrant group in the United States, but ALL foreign-trained medical practitioners in this country."

Filipino Long Island cardiologist Dr. Orlando Apiado, who came to the United States in 1963, after obtaining his medical degree from the University of the Philippines in 1962, stated: "I not only resent [the 'Desperate Housewives' quote], but I am mad. An apology is not enough, they should acknowledge the role of foreign medical graduates particularly Filipino doctors from the early 1960s. For three decades as doctors, we have been serving America."

New York anesthesiologist Dr. Benjamin Ito, a medical graduate of Far Eastern University in Manila and who has been practicing in the United States since 1965, said: "After 9/11, the most awarded healthcare providers were Filipinos from the Beekman Downtown Hospital near Wall Street."

Demands

The Nafcon leaders and Sentosa 27 nurses demanded a more proper apology from ABC Studios that would include: a) at least one broadcast apology before the show's next episode, b) an investigation of the show's writers and producers to find who wrote the line and who should be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, c) the cutting of the offensive scene from the episode permanently, as well as in all productions of DVDs and boxed sets of the series.

The group also threatened to call for a boycott of the series if an appropriate and timely apology was not issued by the network.

The Oct. 5 meeting with ABC will be attended by representatives from Nafcon, Migrant Heritage Commission, Philippine Forum and the Fil-Am medical community in New York, said Nafcon executive director Robert Roy.

As Nafcon plans protest actions, Filipinos worldwide continue to sign petitions, circulate e-mails and post blog entries. The issue has also attracted the attention of mainstream media, including the Fox Network, Drudge Report, KTLA and several newspapers, TV and radio stations worldwide.

With a report from Ruben V. Nepales in Los Angeles.



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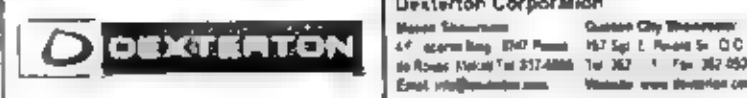
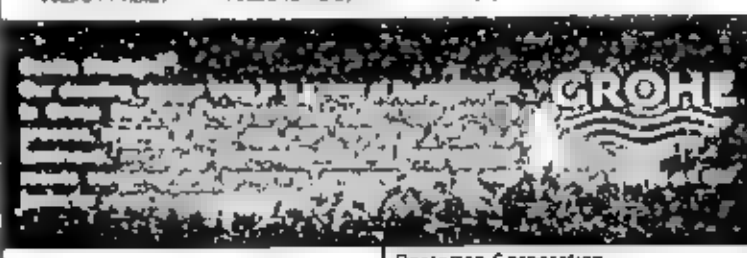
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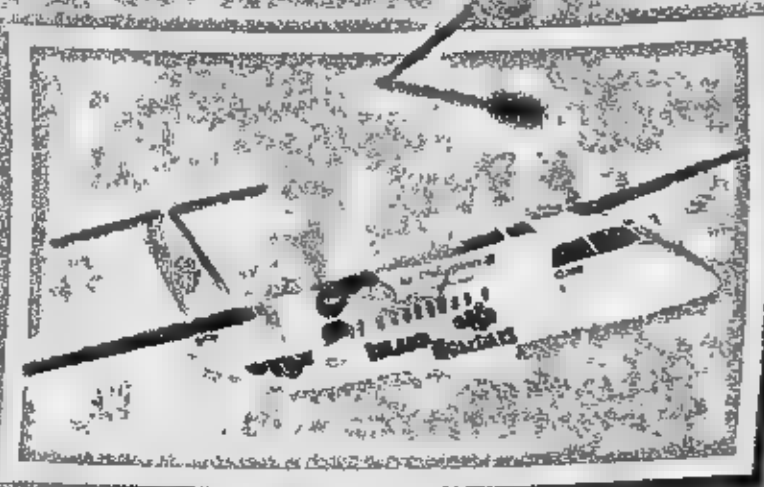
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Manny Pacquiao's weight a big mystery

From page A1

tel unusually late.

Yesterday, Pacquiao had to again go through a rigid morning run.

It could be anything but a routine loosening drill because the Pacman ran wearing a thermal jacket.

There was profuse sweating when he took off the thick outfit before wrapping himself in big, white towels for a brisk rub.

Pacquiao's handlers claimed he tipped the scales at 131 pounds after a random test immediately following yesterday's morning run.

However, one informant, who refused to be identified, said Pacquiao registered 134 pounds in the IBA gym before another extended workout in the afternoon.

Tension in Pacman's suite

Shouldn't Pacquiao be already in a light, maintenance pace at this stage, instead of continuously going through the grinder?

Pacquiao, if indeed he was already down to 131, was supposed to have only an egg for dinner to ensure he would not exceed the 130-pound super

featherweight limit.

It was hard to confirm what Pacquiao had before he went to bed as reports of unusual tension inside his first-class suite on the 61st floor of Mandalay Hotel filtered out.

This was followed by rumors Pacquiao was very irritable last night.

A strictly no-visitors sign was pasted way ahead of the regular curfew outside the door of his suite.

A penalty for overweight If Pacquiao indeed had been wrestling desperately with weight woes, this would not be confirmed until this morning.

If he opts to work out again upon waking up, that would answer the puzzle.

As stipulated in the rules, the overweight fighter in the main event will be given two hours to make the grade.

If he still fails to make the weight, the fight proceeds but there would be hefty fines and penalties amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Pacquiao's WBC International super featherweight title is not at stake in his re-

match with Barrera, whom he stopped four years ago.

Internet rumors

Pacquiao was stripped of his WBC flyweight title on the eve of his defense against Medgoen 3-K Battery in Thailand in 1999 after he failed to make the weight on the eve of the championship.

He was knocked out in the actual battle the following day.

As we went to press, one Team Pacquiao insider said he had just gotten a call from Mexican Tony Rivera, a cornerman of Barrera, who wondered why the Pacman continued to work out frantically this late.

"We heard he was still 134 pounds after another hard drill this morning," the Barrera team assistant reportedly claimed.

He said he got the information through the Internet.

Knockout plan

Meanwhile, trainer Freddie Roach told the Inquirer they would not bother anymore to match even half of the four new "plots" which Team Barrera claimed it had prepared against Pacquiao.

"We stick to only one plan," Roach said.

What's this? he was asked.

"We knock him out!"

Pacquiao finished off Barrera in 11 rounds in their 2003 fight.

"It was a total meltdown," Barrera said of the drubbing he took from Pacquiao. "It was Manny's night. He took it to me."

Losing the way he did to Pacquiao has gnawed at Barrera's pride. He admits as much.

"I'm taking this one personally," Barrera said.

Barrera, who brings a record of 63-5 with 42 knockouts, has said he will retire after the fight.

Passing the torch

"I've been thinking about this for the last three years," Barrera said. "I talked it over with my

wife, my family, my friends. It's something that I really want to do. I'm ready to pass the torch."

But Barrera will have his work cut out if he wants to go out a winner against the Boxing Writers Association of America's Fighter of the Year for 2006.

Pacquiao is 44-3 with two draws and 35 knockouts, stopping Mexico's Jorge Solis in the eighth round last April in his most recent fight.

The Filipino hero has gone 18-1 with two draws since 1999, losing only in 2005 when Mexico's Erik Morales took a unanimous decision at Las Vegas. *With report from AFP*

Murder in paradise: Green groups up in arms

From page A1

Sibuyan has been dubbed the

"Galapagos island of Asia."

But a mining firm said the killing was an accident.

Faced with conflicting versions about the death of Marin, police in Romblon filed a murder case against suspect Mario Chinalpan Kingo, 49, security chief of the Sibuyan Nickel Properties Development Corp. (SNPDC).

Kingo was also charged with violating the gun ban imposed by the Commission on Elections ahead of the barangay elections, according to Chief Supt. Louie Palmera, Mimaropa police director.

Palmera said that Kingo had owned up to the killing of Marin during an anti-mining protest on Sibuyan Island but claimed he shot the victim in "self defense."

Marin, 42, was a former member of the environmental group World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF) and a municipal councilor of San Fernando town in Romblon.

Palmera said the suspect also surrendered the gun involved in the killing, a .38-cal. revolver registered to Tagaligas Security Agency.

"It was his version of the incident so we respect it. But we're carefully collating all the evidence in this case," Palmera said over the phone.

Guard's version

Palmera said the local police had taken steps to prevent violence from recurring in the area.

"My provincial director (Senior Supt. Eugenio Alcovindas Jr.), personally went there to inspect the crime scene and assess the situation. He said there's no more tension in the area," Palmera added.

In a separate phone interview, Alcovindas said Kingo was now detained at the Romblon municipal police jail and had invoked self-defense.

In his sworn statement, Kingo said he was driving a jeep

owned by SNPDC in Barangay Baclaran together with two coworkers, when their path was blocked by Marin and others who were holding a rally.

He said one of the protesters angrily told them to turn back while the others gathered around his vehicle.

'Tell it in court'

Kingo said Marin suddenly approached and grabbed the gun tucked in his waist.

"He said they then fought for the control of the firearm until it dropped on the seat of the vehicle. The suspect said when he was able to grab the gun, he shot at Marin to defend himself," Alcovindas said.

Alcovindas said the investigators did not "give weight" to the version of the suspect.

"He has a lawyer. He should just tell his story in court," Alcovindas said in Filipino.

In a statement, SNPDC said Marin died in an "accidental shooting."

"We are saddened by the incident, but also deplore the circumstances which brought about his demise," the company said.

SNPDC's account

The mining firm said it was Marin and the rallyists who attacked Kingo and his companions.

SNPDC said the firm's community relations officer, Lea Ladica, was beaten up by Marin's group.

It also claimed the rally was not directed against SNPDC but at another mining firm.

It said SNPDC personnel were with another security guard and a geological aide on their way to their mining campsite in Barangay Taclobo.

"Outside the premises of Filipinas Top Rock Mines, a demonstration led by Mr. Jennie Chan, allegedly a foreign national, and Marin, was in progress," the SNPDC statement said.

"Our company jeep, which happened to be driving by, was accosted by Chan, Marin and a dozen or so of their men, a few of

whom reportedly were armed."

The company said that to avoid confrontation, Kingo decided to back up.

Bashed in the face

"Before he could make the full turn, however, Marin allegedly bodily grabbed Kingo, reportedly grappling for Kingo's service firearm. During the scuffle, a shot rang out, and Marin was hit," SNPDC said.

It said some of the protesters chased Ladica, who had run to a nearby house, and "bashed her face with a rock."

The firm said the protesters later vented their ire on the company jeep and the office gate, pushing the vehicle down an embankment and wrecking it, and then shooting the company gate.

Alcovindas said he doubted the company's assertion that the company gate was fired at by the demonstrators.

"The gate was very far from where the incident happened. It's on the other side of the mountain. I don't think the people would be brave to go there," he said.

He said that the jeep was damaged but "not totally destroyed."

"But it does have eight bullet holes on its body," he said.

Cancel mining permits

SNPDC also said it had yet to start its operations on the island and that "we have no equipment physically there yet."

Outraged by Marin's death, residents of Sibuyan and green groups demanded the pullout of mining firms and the cancellation of all permits to explore and mine resources on Sibuyan.

The Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) said President Macapagal-Arroyo should intervene and rethink the government's mining policy.

"We share the appeal of the ATM for the mining company to withdraw all equipment and their permit especially now that the blood of our colleague had been shed," Sibuyan resident Rodne Galicha said in a briefing.

"With SNPDC and Pelican Resources' inability to rein in their private thugs, we are afraid that

they will not hesitate to use force again in the future," ATM coordinator Jaybee Garganera said in the briefing.

Haribon executive director Anabelle Plantilla said: "We urge Jose Miguel Cabarrus, president of the SNPDC, Austraban companies Pelican Resources and BHP Billiton, Canadian Alta Resources, and all mining operators in Sibuyan to immediately stop all mining activities there."

WWF account

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, Marin had a heated confrontation with Kingo and three SNPDC personnel. During the confrontation, the SNPDC jeep drove off, dragging Marin. Then a shot rang out.

Quoting witnesses, WWF said the jeep driver held Armin with his left hand, while he pointed a gun at the councilor's mouth with his right hand.

"Now, they're twisting the facts," Galicha said of the SNPDC version. Galicha insisted the residents were unarmed during the picket.

SNPDC, which environmentalists said is affiliated with the Australian firms Pelican Resources Ltd. and BHP Billiton, was granted by the provincial government small-scale mining permits in Barangays Taclobo and España in San Fernando town.

True steward

"We are deeply saddened with the demise of a true environmental steward, Mr. Armin Marin. Now every ounce of nickel, iron ore, cobalt, chromite, every mineral in Sibuyan island is tainted with the blood of Mr. Marin," said Philip Camara, Haribon Foundation's member of the board.

So far, there are three approved small-scale mining operations, two pending applications for large-scale mining, and one pending application for exploration permit in five areas across the island.

Some 13 mining areas on the island had been plotted, according to the Sibuyanons Against Mining Movement.

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Date	Topic	Credit Hours	Lecturer
Oct 15	Reforms in Law Registration (MCLE Prescribed Subject)	8:00-12:00 (3 hours)	Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili
	Media and the Legal Profession (Legal Ethics)	1:00-4:00 (3 hours)	Atty. Katrina Legarda
Oct 16	Relevant Laws on Children (MCLE Prescribed)	9:00-12:00 (3 hours)	Judge Rosalina L. Pison
	Court Annexed Mediation and Court Related Mediation (Including Appellate Court Mediation) (ADR)	1:00-3:00 (2 hours)	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar
	The Right to Self Organization, Collective Bargaining, Strikes and Lockouts (Substantive and Procedural Law)	3:15-6:15 (3 hours)	Dean Antonio H. Abad, Jr.
Oct 17	Pre-Trial and Trial Skills (Pre-Trial & Trial Skills)	8:00-12:00 (4 hours)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
	Developing ADR Skills for Lawyers (ADR)	1:00-4:00 (3 hours)	Prof. Rowena Daryo Morales
	International Law	4:15-6:15 (2 hours)	Dean Raul C. Pangalangan
Oct 18	Legal Writing for Practitioners (Legal Writing)	8:00-12:00 (4 hours)	Prof. Marvic M. V. Leonen
	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics including Notarial Law (Legal Ethics)	1:00-4:00 (3 hours)	Justice Hilario L. Aquino
Oct 19	Problems in the Implementation of the Human Security Act (Substantive and Procedural Law)	9:00-12:00 (3 hours)	Prof. Harry L. Roque
	Updates on Obligations and Contracts (Substantive and Procedural Law)	1:00-4:00 (3 hours)	Judge Ed Vincent S. Albano

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No kidding, hamsters beat jet ...

From page A1

dung took center stage Thursday at the 17th annual Ig Nobel Awards.

The awards, a tongue-in-cheek homage to their Scandinavian counterparts, were announced during a raucous ceremony at Harvard University in Massachusetts to honor some of the more obscure and bizarre scientific discoveries.

The Ig's, as they are known, are chosen by the science humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research to highlight scientific papers that, in the words of the magazine, "first make people laugh and then make them think."

Sword study

Among the winners were a British-US duo who examined the side effects of sword swallowing and a Spanish team who finally answered the question of whether rats can discriminate between Japanese and Dutch spoken backward.

"It was a surprise, it was the last thing we expected," said Nuria Sebastian-Galles, one of the Barcelona team of scientists, of the findings. The awards, she said, "bring out the freak inside most scientists."

Past winners have included the creator of the plastic pink flamingo, the inventor of an alarm clock that runs and hides and a researcher



THE IG as the Ig Nobel award is called is presented during ceremonies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass on Thursday. The Ig's poke fun at bizarre and improbably achievements in real-life scientific research.

who reported the first known case of homosexual necrophilic behavior in the mallard duck.

Endless bowl

Research highlighted by this year's awards ranged from a study of how sheets wrinkle and how the word "the" causes headaches for indexes to why humans can't stop eating when presented with an apparently endless bowl of soup.

Also honored was a Taiwanese man who patented a device to net bank robbers.

The prestigious peace prize was given to a US Air Force laboratory for researching what the committee dubbed the "gay bomb"—a chemical weapon that would make enemy

soldiers become sexually irresistible to each other.

Cow dung vanilla

Japanese researcher Mayu Yamamoto, who received the chemistry Ig, got an additional honor: a local ice cream shop created a new flavor, the "Yum-a-Moto Vanilla Twist," to honor her work extracting vanilla flavor from cow dung.

The winners were permitted just 60 seconds to give their acceptance speeches, on pain of interruption by an 8-year-old girl, who traditionally signals the time limit by repeatedly shouting "Please stop, I'm bored."

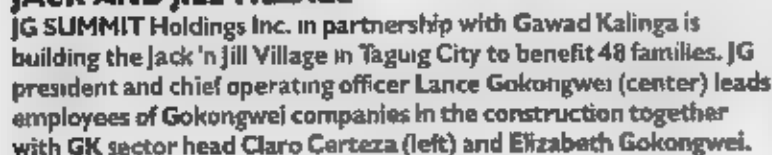
The Ig Nobels have often targeted what are perceived to be wasteful projects and some scientists have complained that the satirical awards unfairly tarnish legitimate research.

Proud winners

However, many researchers welcome the chance to talk about their work.

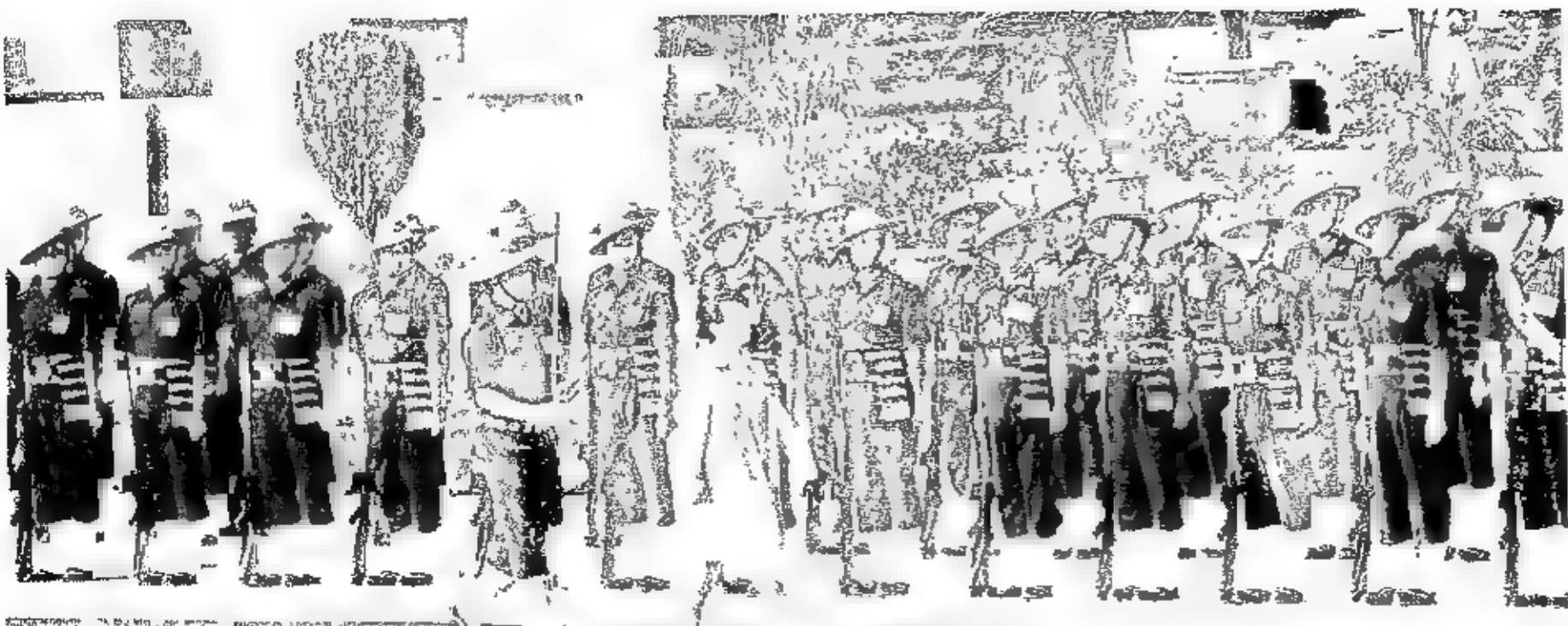
Seven of the 10 winners this year paid their own way to accept their awards, which were handed out by six real Nobel Laureates.

Winners will also explain their work and why they did what they did in a weekend public lecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *AFP*



Terra Quismundo

1000



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE: President Arroyo troops the honor guard during welcome rites upon arrival at the presidential palace in New Delhi on Friday. REUTERS

President

From page A1

back before the Spanish colonized us, and we want to revive our cultural ties," Ms Arroyo said in brief remarks to reporters following her arrival.

Cultural influence in RP

Indian cultural influence reached the Philippines indirectly via two great Indo-Malayan empires which traded with the Philippines. The Srivijaya Empire (7th to 13th centuries) based in Palembang, Sumatra, was a mix of Buddhism and Hinduism. The Majapahit Empire (1293 to 1527) was Hindu, and centered in Java in what is now Indonesia. Indian hegemony over Southeast Asia ended with the decline of the Majapahit in the 14th century and the rise of Islam.

Scholars believe that Indian cultural influence on Filipino culture has been underestimated. It extended through the indigenous religions, epic folk literature, myths, social customs, arts, crafts, traditional dress and Sanskrit roots of pre-Hispanic script and numerous contemporary words.

The President said that India was the fourth largest economy in the world (in terms of purchasing power parity), "and with that comes great responsibilities of India to her neighbors in the economic, political and security fields."

"And as one of the neighbors of India in the East Asian region, we are happy to be here to move the integration of our economies forward," she said.

Measured using purchasing power parity (PPP) calculations, India has the world's fourth largest gross domestic product at \$4.156 trillion. PPP takes into account the relative cost of living and the inflation rates of countries, rather than using just the exchange rates which may distort real differences in income.

India has a population of 1.1 billion, second only to China's 1.3 billion people.

After the ceremonies at the presidential palace, the President went to lay a wreath at the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi, India's great nationalist leader.

Trade ties lopsided

She returned to the Oberoi Hotel to receive a succession of Indian leaders and businessmen before addressing the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Associated Chamber of Commerce of India.

Saying trade relations between the two countries were "lopsided" in favor of India, Ms Arroyo invited the Indian business groups to invest in the Philippines in the areas of information technology, business outsourcing, mining, filmmaking, tourism, biofuels, asset privatization and consumer products.

Philippine exports to India, led by electronic products, reg-

9 accor

NEW DELHI - President Arroyo announced nine bilateral

- Framework India Bilateral
- Agreement on Joint Commission Cooperation
- \$50-million the Export India
- Philippine for Global International Trade Exchange
- Memorandum on the Field of Medicine
- Agreement on Philippine National Corp (PNC) Trading Corp
- \$35 million affordable medicine
- Our massive health care pharmaceutical part of our price of medicine bought by the
- Memorandum on Enhanced Field of Renew
- Memorandum on the Foreign Service the Philippine
- Memorandum on the Waiverments for Ho and Official P

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The President's Indian opposition Sabha, Vice-mad Hama Gandhi, chairman Cong

In the evening again met Ph an Bhavan state banquet Indian Preside

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Back home Ms Arroyo Thursday's day visit to the Indian c

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Bayuga in "to 400000 value this office

When Bernadez encashed the check from a Land Bank branch in So.ano near Maia-cañang, she was surprised to find out that it amounted to P460,000 and the check was under her name.

"Hindi ako naghahabol na maging akin yun pera (I'm not after the money)," Bernadez said after a meeting with Undersecretary Fatima Valdez, presidential adviser for religious affairs.

She said she just wanted to find out what happened to the rest of the P455,000.

In a statement, Valdez said she has ordered an investigation and has summoned Bayuga

THE BEST FRIED CHICKEN!

Chicken Man



revives ancient Philippines-India ties

ds signed

PRES.DENT ARROYO signed the signing of agreements with In-

rk of Philippines Relations to Establish the Commission on Bilateral

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119.5 million in imports of Indian meat, wheat and products amount- million.

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"SEVEN SOCIAL SINS:" President Arroyo receives a scroll listing seven social sins by Mahatma Gandhi, the founding practitioner of nonviolent protest and father of Indian independence, Mahatma Gandhi. Ms Arroyo's state visit is the first to India by a Philippine president in 10 years.

by a visit to Mumbai, India's industrial center. She leaves for home later today.

In her meeting with the Confederation of Indian Industries in Mumbai, the President invited Indian pharmaceutical companies to make the Philippines their main base of operations in Southeast Asia.

She also invited India's hotel and resort owners to invest in the Philippines to promote tourism, particularly in the central Philippines tourism corridor and to develop the country's pristine waters and white sand beaches.

She also invited Indian businessmen to participate in the government's asset privatization program and invest in government-owned and -controlled corporations.

Call center in Camarines Sur

Sutherland Global Services of India has announced its plan to expand its call center operations in the Philippines.

Sutherland president K.S. Kumar, who called on the President in Mumbai, said Sutherland would set up a new call center in Camarines Sur in the next 45 days, expected to create 500 new jobs.

He said that within the next three months, they will be establishing a 100-seat call center in Davao, and add another 500 seats to their existing 2,000-man operation in Clark.

Kumar said Sutherland Global Services was among the first locators in the new IT Park in Tarlac, with its 100-seat call center expected to be online by January 2008.

The company is finalizing the evaluation of a proposed 200-employee call center operation in Iloilo and the planned training facilities in seven provinces to accommodate 500 graduates every month.

WNS Global Services also presented to the President its plan for a call center project in the Philippines which was registered with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority last Sept. 26.

medical assistance.

"I was happy because that money would help in the radiation treatment for Marisol," Bernadez told reporters.

When she was asked to accompany Bayuga to encash the check, Bernadez said she was surprised to find out that the check was under her name and that it amounted to P450,000. She discovered this when she signed the voucher.

Bayuga told her that the rest of the money would be given to other patients in need.

Bernadez recalled that another woman was with them and that she, too, was made to encash a P200,000-check.

Eventually, she said Bayuga gave her P5,000 in cash—as promised.

Bernadez said she continues to look for financial help for Marisol, who needs three cycles of chemotherapy. One cycle of treatment costs a whopping P50,000.

She added that Bayuga had sent her a text message the other day when her complaint was aired on TV.

"Bakit ginawa mo sa akin eto (Why did you do this to me?)" she quoted Bayuga's text message.

Bernadez said she simply wanted to know what happened to the rest of the money

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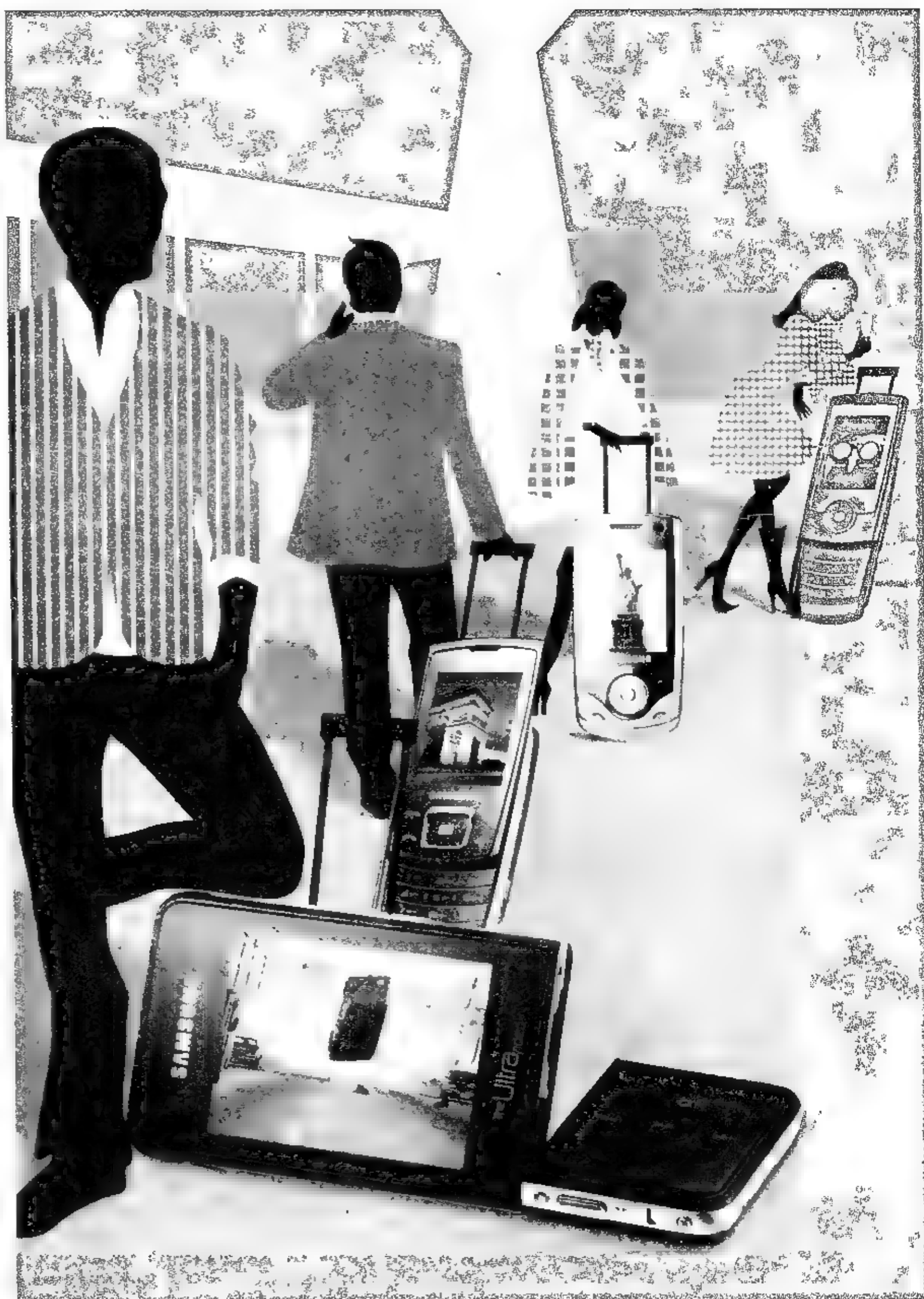
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OPINION

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All talk

IF PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS STILL MEAN ANYTHING to the police and the military, hundreds of cases of extrajudicial killings would have been solved a long time ago. But perhaps they see President Macapagal-Arroyo wink whenever she goes through her routine of condemning the killings and demanding that their perpetrators be brought to justice.

EDITORIAL

Fourteen months ago, on Aug. 1, 2006, the President told the Philippine National Police and the Department of Justice she was giving them 10 weeks to put behind bars the criminals responsible for the murder of at least 10 political activists or journalists. Whatever the motives for those killings may be, she said, "it is the full intent of government to check all criminal acts and uphold the law."

The next day, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita got into action—not to ensure that the President's order would be followed to the letter, but to explain why it could not be done. "It's hard to say what we can do in 10 weeks," Ermita complained. All that the PNP's Task Force Usig, the body formed to investigate the killings, could promise was its "best effort," he said.

Two months later, the task force reported that authorities had solved not only 10 but 21 cases and that appropriate charges had been filed in court. The report also said the PNP had arrested and taken 12 suspects into its custody. But if the figures didn't seem to add up—12 suspects in 21 killings deemed solved?—no one in government was about to challenge the report. As far as the police and the Arroyo administration were concerned, the quota had been met within the deadline set, and that settled the whole problem. Little has been heard from Task Force Usig since then.

If that was the best the government could do, it was not good enough to reduce the number of unsolved political murders. Since the President issued her order, 56 other victims have been added to the list, mostly activists identified with the Left, again. That brought the number of extrajudicial executions during the Arroyo administration to 300 by the INQUIRER's own count. (Karapatan, a human rights organization, puts the number at 886.)

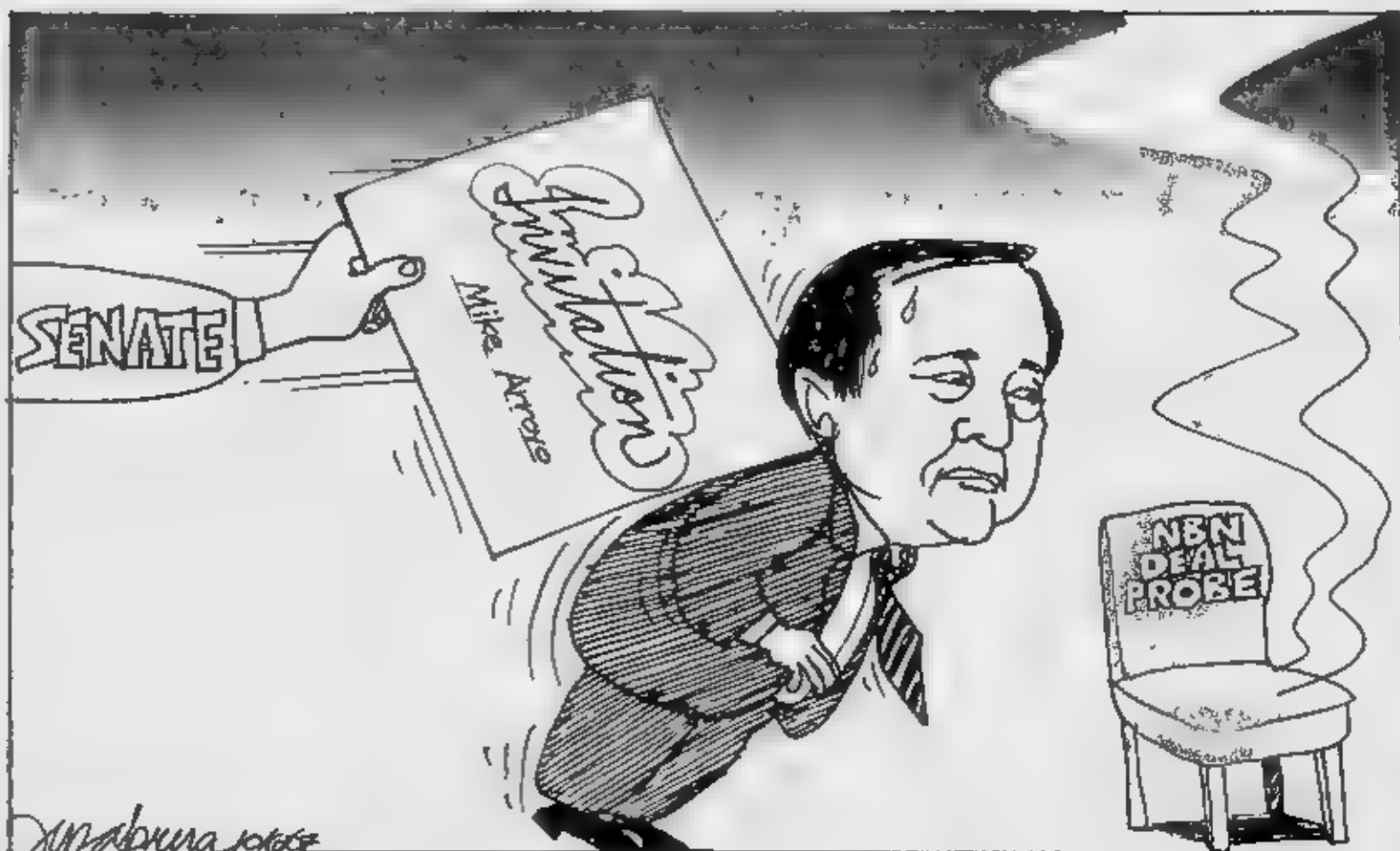
Now with Burma's military junta's brutal repression of protests hogging the news, the President has been trying to divert attention away from her administration's dismal human rights record. Last week at the United Nations, she expressed "revulsion" at Burma's repression of peaceful protesters. "We have no tolerance for human rights violations at home and abroad," she declared.

She picked up the theme again Monday during the installation of Director General Avelino Razon as chief of the PNP, saying, "No one should have to die for speaking out their political beliefs." Ruining the country's "unfortunate history of political violence by those on the Left and the Right," she promised "to break the cycle once and for all." She said she wanted Razon's first report to be "an update on arrests, convictions and imprisonment of those responsible for the killings of activists and journalists." And then she asked Razon to "let human rights be [his] legacy" when he retires in September next year.

What the President seemed to be saying was that Razon and the PNP should now give the highest priority to the solution of extrajudicial executions and the protection of human rights. There couldn't be any other; the killings continue unabated and the rate of their solution has been frustrating. Razon was on top of the effort to investigate the killings, as chief of Task Force Usig. Now he is being given the additional responsibility of stopping them. If he couldn't do the first job well, how can he be expected to do the two jobs better? Can anyone take the President's marching orders seriously?

But this has been the story of how the government has handled human rights and extrajudicial executions—all bark, no bite; all talk, little action. In fact, some of the administration's recent moves impede rather than speed up the solution of human rights cases. The military, for instance, has been defying court orders to produce reports pertaining to the kidnapping of Jonas Burgos. And the administration wants new legislation that would further tighten restrictions on the "disclosure of military secrets."

Given such mixed signals, every agency feels free to act on its own interpretation of the government's policy—even in a way that contradicts the President's statements. And so the killings go on and the killers go free.



Burma and the rest of us

THE BRUTAL SUPPRESSION BY BURMA'S military junta of Buddhist monks and civilian protesters has sparked global outrage. The generals who have ruled this unfortunate country for 45 years remain seemingly unperceptive to worldwide appeals for moderation. We in the Philippines who resisted and overthrew a comparatively milder dictatorship can do no less than to encourage and actively support the just struggle of the Burmese people to participate in the governing of their country.

It is right that the president of our country has come forward to urge respect for the civil and political rights of Burmese citizens. Never mind that Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, because of her own administration's appalling human rights record, is hardly the right person to lecture Burma's military about democracy. What is important is that our people's collective voice is expressed in no uncertain terms on an urgent issue like this.

Yet, we cannot be unaware of the global political-economic context in which Burma's crisis is embedded. This is an immensely resource-rich country that every power in Asia and in the West has been salivating over. For all the lamentations about the human rights situation in Burma—American, French, British, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Singaporean and Thai economic interests, just to name a few, are very much in a cozy relationship with the country's repressive regime. These interests are in the lucrative oil and gas industry, mining, forestry, telecommunications and tourism. Burma's bachelors require a lot of firearms and ammunition to keep their control over the restive population. Such needs are abundantly supplied by the same countries that are today feasting on Burma's natural resources and market.

One cannot avoid noticing how much the current diplomatic attention on Burma is being driven by the United States and United Kingdom. Of course, the fact that this is so is not an argument against the validity of the present furor over Burma. But, if we are mindful of the media cam-

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



paign that preceded the American invasion of Iraq, we cannot be oblivious of the way in which democratization as a value had been used as a disguise for the advancement of naked imperial interests. Today we know that it was not so much Iraqi democracy but Iraqi oil that led America and Britain to that hapless country.

This brings us to a classic dilemma that is bound to recur in every society where citizens are resisting domestic tyranny. That dilemma is best posed as a set of questions for the rest of us: How do we support the just struggles of peoples for freedom in other societies without taking over these struggles ourselves? How do we bear witness to human suffering and struggle while avoiding what Michel Foucault once called "the indignity of speaking for others"? How do we balance the imperative of international solidarity, which our own moral intuitions prompt us to voice, with the principle of national self-determination that has been the cornerstone of international relations since the formation of the United Nations?

We know there are no quick answers to these questions. The United Nations had refused to authorize the invasion of Iraq. The United States went ahead anyway, gathering its own "coalition of the willing." In the course of toppling down Saddam Hussein, America reduced a sovereign nation into a colony, nominally administered by a weak Iraqi government but controlled in every way by US forces and private security contractors. To this day, the UN has failed to sanction America for what it has done. It also has nothing meaningful to say about how Iraq can resist those forces that

seek its dismemberment, or how it may rebuild itself into a modern democratic society.

Not too long ago, a despicable apartheid racist regime existed in South Africa. It employed the most brutal means to keep the far more numerous black population in subjection. An underground armed struggle led by the leftist African National Congress spearheaded the resistance. Its icon was a mild-mannered activist who had been kept in solitary detention for decades. His name was Nelson Mandela. He symbolized the vision of a free and democratic South Africa, in much the same way the imprisoned Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi today represents the aspirations of a modern and democratic Burma.

South Africa counts many heroes and martyrs among those who bravely fought the regime, but it is doubtful if the apartheid system would have collapsed when it did if the rest of the world community had not at one point pulled out all their investments from that country. Global opinion had galvanized radically against the regime, and this was methodically applied on the corporations and governments that had kept the racist government afloat. Finding itself isolated, the regime had no choice but to hand over power to a new government chosen by democratic elections.

Turning points like these vary from country to country. It would be foolish to decide what is to be done from an unchanging pivot of imagined transcendental principles. Notions like self-determination and humanitarian intervention are inherited social values that arose from different traditions. Their precise application to the contemporary world cannot be dogmatic. The world is changing, and so too are our moral intuitions. With modern satellite communications, it is easier for people all over the world to converse with one another, to share in the suffering of others, and hopefully to find solutions compatible with an evolving global sense of justice.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The other side of Jpepa

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



In fact, with Singapore, the five-year period is already up. What's more, the agreement with Vietnam is pretty close to completion. And here we are, left at the starting post, with everybody moving in front of us.

What is the basis for the conclusion that Jpepa's benefits to us far exceed the costs? These issues were studied by a team of researchers from various institutions under the auspices of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS). I understand the accusation has been made that the PIDS, having been financed by Jica (Japan's aid agency), was partial to Japan. That is another example of ad hominem arguments (you can't win on the issues, so attack the personalities). The PIDS is a government think tank, whose work is both nationally and internationally recognized. Moreover, anyone who doubts its independence and integrity has only to look at the policy research it has done, which pulls no punches, even during the Marcos dictatorship (of course, the language was couched rather diplomatically—but the conclusions were still obvious).

In effect, what was found is that the Jpepa will cost the Philippines, in the form of direct foregone revenue (because of tariff reductions), something like P3.7-P4.2 billion a year. There are also costs to the bureaucracy, but these are minimal, because most of what the government should do would have been done with or without the Jpepa—besides, the cooperation initiatives would entail government counterpart funding and would thus be limited to our own domestic absorptive capacity, taking on first the

identified priority areas we could handle

The benefits the country will derive from the Jpepa have been estimated to be anywhere between P6.5 billion and P110 billion based on current GDP figures, due to an improved investment climate (projected foreign direct investment from Japan amounting to P365 billion, plus more than 200,000 jobs, increasing as Japanese investors become comfortable and familiar with local partners). The studies also show an overall positive impact on poverty reduction (the NCR benefits most).

In the agreement, because of zero tariffs on both sides, the Philippines will now be open to the free flow of agricultural imports from Japan, and vice versa. Think of it, dear reader. What Japanese agricultural goods can we afford to buy? (Last time I was in Japan, a cherry cost the equivalent of \$2.) On the other hand, what agricultural goods from the Philippines can the Japanese not afford to buy? Who do you think will benefit more?

With respect to services, the Japanese have opened their labor market for nurses and caregivers—a landmark decision for them—but the market will be filled, if we wait too long, by Indonesians and other Asian countries who already have an EPA with Japan.

Now about the environmental issue—the fear that we are going to be made a dumping ground for Japanese toxic wastes. As mentioned above, it is the Philippines that is sending toxic wastes to Japan, because we don't have the technology to manage them. Sure, the tariffs on imported wastes will be zero. But that is irrelevant—because their importation is banned (by international as well as national law). And in any case, my understanding is that Japan has signed a side letter making that even clearer.

Bottom line: The Jpepa is worth it. In fact, we can't afford not to sign, because with everyone else but us on board, Japan will bring its business to them, and we may even lose what we already have. Is that what we really want?

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A new hunger record

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangabas

A NEW NATIONAL HUNGER RECORD WAS SET last Monday, when SWS reported that 21.5 percent of Philippine households had suffered from hunger, without having anything to eat, at least once in the three months previous to the latest Social Weather Survey of Sept. 2-5, 2007.

This new percentage consists of 17.4 percent who said they experienced it only once or a few times, termed Moderate Hunger, and 4.1 percent who said they experienced it often or always, termed Severe Hunger. The survey respondent is the household head, acting as spokesperson for the family.

The previous record high rate of hunger was 19.0 percent, which happened in November 2006, and again in February 2007. Hunger declined to 14.7 percent in June 2007, which was pleasantly acknowledged in the last State of the Nation Address. The decline turned out to be short-lived.

Going into denial mode, Presidential Management Staff director-general Cerge Remonde claimed to *Business World* (which has right of first publication of the SWS economic indicators) that no significant event or calamity happened in the past months. But, on Wednesday morning, Health Secretary Francisco Duque reminded ANC that the government had already been concerned about drought since the middle of this year.

Later on Wednesday I was able to reach Secretary Duque by phone. Secretary Duque, who supervises the National Nutrition Council and was assigned by the President to be on top of the hunger situation, was unaware that the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics did its own survey in mid-2006, using the SWS approach, and obtained a national hunger rate of 19 percent. It seems that the BAS' independent validation of the SWS account of hunger, which had been reported to the secretary of agriculture by January 2007, was never circulated to the Cabinet.

I myself only learned about the BAS hunger survey in June 2007. By July, it was being openly discussed by technocrats and academics in work-

shops. At the September conference of the Philippine Statistical Association on hunger statistics, I asked BAS Director Romeo Recido, who was a fellow discussant on the program, why the BAS hunger survey was not disclosed to the public right away. Director Recido readily answered that the survey report was intended for the secretary of agriculture only. (Incidentally, the BAS report I have is not marked "Secret" or "Confidential.")

Not one to be fazed by bad news, Secretary Duque told me that, as a physician, he is trained to respond to pain, not to joy. He wants to see new hunger data as soon as possible. I promised him special attention as far as SWS materials are concerned. It looks like it will take years before the National Nutritional Council and/or the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics get around to doing their next hunger survey.

Noting that chicken eggs have been getting smaller recently, on account of the worsening quality of their feed, Duque said that he is not too surprised at the increase in the SWS hunger figure. Perhaps he should be made head of a new Department of Health and Food!

Abolish the NFA. In my opinion, as a former rice-economist, the abolition of the age-old legal monopoly of the National Food Authority on international trade in rice and corn would be an excellent move towards winning the war on hunger.

The NFA gets in the way of the free market. Without it, Filipino consumers could take advantage of the lowest prices for imported rice and corn, at any time, from any country, for any amount, without waiting for the government to make a move.

The NFA is a huge financial burden. Without it, the government would save on its huge losses, in the order of P2 billion per year. It should use these funds instead for adjustment programs for those rice and corn farmers unable to compete with imports.

The NFA is a milking cow. Without the NFA there would be less corruption in the public sector.

Government controls on international trade in food are an anachronism in this age of globalization. Filipino free-market economists, for many decades, have proposed to abolish such controls. A long time ago, for instance, the free-market ideas of having floating rates for foreign exchange and interest rates were thought outlandish, and too modern. Now they are considered normal.

The abolition of the NFA will eventually come, simply because it makes good economic sense. With hunger such a widespread problem, it also makes good social sense to do it now.

Rosie Chew. The grand lady of market research in the Philippines, Ms. Rosario "Rosie" Chew, died last Sept. 27, at the age of almost 82. Over three decades ago, Rosie left her post as marketing director of Procter and Gamble to set up the highly successful research companies Consumer Pulse, Dealer Pulse, and Media Pulse (which, when she retired, were all acquired by the research multinational A.C. Nielsen).

Rosie never married, but her protégés Mercedes "Mercy" Abad and Carmencita "Menchu" Esteban, who in turn set up their own firms, Total Research Needs (Trends) and Philippine Survey Research Center (PSRC) respectively, are among her many virtual children in the profession. Social Weather Stations, which learned many of its field survey procedures from Trends, recognizes that it is one of Rosie's many virtual grandchildren. In behalf of my Filipino colleagues in opinion polling, I salute Rosie Chew.

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangabas@sws.org.ph.

Days of discovery

MY THINKING ABOUT MUSLIMS FOR 21 YEARS WAS shaped by Philippine media—what I saw on television, heard on the radio or read in the newspapers. Sadly, Muslims usually land in the news when there is an explosion, a kidnapping, a beheading or when some other atrocities happen. As a result, I was scared every time I would hear about them. I couldn't help but associate them with the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups.

So for 21 years, I carried this prejudice against Muslim Filipinos. And I never had the opportunity to alter this perception until I started working with them.

When I learned that I was being sent to Mindanao, I was

excited, thrilled—and afraid. This was something that I really wanted to do back when I was still in college. But then I was worried that I would end up as one of the casualties in a bombing or a victim of kidnapping.

During my first month in Midsayap, North Cotabato, I had a hard time focusing on my work. I was so paranoid that whenever we went out to buy food, I would look around, expecting a bomb to go off. Whenever I talked to my Muslim officemates, I would be very careful lest I hurt their sensitivities. My first month was a total disaster; I could not enjoy some of the nicest things about being in Mindanao. I am talking about the seafoods, vegetables and fruits, which are all very affordable.

It has been four months since I first set foot here. I have discovered many things, which I am sure many people in Luzon and the Visayas do not know.

My work involves documenting success stories of farmers who are involved in some of the programs of the Philippine Rice Research Institute. I go to their homes and interview them. In the process, I have found many friends.

The first interview that I did was with a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front. For me it was a scoop, and I was thrilled. But I was almost trembling with fear, when I was introduced to him. I thought I would never be able to finish the interview. I was afraid that I might faint in the course of our conversation.

The man had the fierce look I had come to associate with the movie character Rambo. I began by asking him about his farming experiences. But when I was finished with farming-related questions, I knew I had to ask him about the days when he was with the MNLF. I told myself that was the reason why I was there. But before I could summon the courage to throw my first question at him, I was asking myself so many questions. Will he get mad? Will he shoot me? Then I took a deep breath and started shooting my questions.

To my surprise, his life as a rebel was something he wanted to talk about. In fact, I had the impression that I bored him with my farming-related questions.

To someone who was so afraid of what he might say, his words were kind and comforting. In fact, he was a picture of serenity and peace as he talked.

I have been to places described as dangerous by the media. I have visited Camp Abubakar, formerly the largest camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. I have been to Basian where the recent, televised encounter between the Marines and the Abu Sayyaf took place. I have been to Sulu where the beheading of farmers happened. I have been to all these places, and I think they are not as dangerous as the world has been made to believe.

And the people in these places? They are far from being the ruthless killers they have become in many people's imagination. What I have seen are humble and polite people who, like all of us, crave for a peaceful life.

Whenever we enter a Muslim house, we would say, "Assalamualaikum (Peace be with you)" and we would be welcomed with a similar prayer "Walaikumussalam (Peace be with you, too)." According to my Muslim friends, that is their standard greeting. Imagine people wishing you peace every day? In fact my Muslim friends keep telling me that Islam is the religion of peace-loving people.

These people are also very hospitable. Wherever we went to conduct interviews, we were always offered the best seat, the best food served in the most beautiful plates our hosts possessed. One time I interviewed a farmer who had prepared so much food that one would think there was a fiesta or he expected someone very special. He served us grilled fish, chicken adobo, vegetables and lots of other foods, and yet I was there just for an interview.

In almost every place we visited, the people made sure we would have some produce to bring home: fresh from the garden bottle gourd, squash, cucumber, and other stuff.

In the office, I no longer feel uncomfortable talking to my Muslim friends. I find it very healthy and enlightening to discuss our differences now. Over lunch, we compare religious beliefs and what we find offensive. We discuss their practices like polygamy, and they are quite open about them. They have told me that under Islam, a Muslim cannot have many wives if he cannot provide the needs of their families. I found some of their ways rather quaint and amusing, such as solemnizing a wedding even in the absence of the bride. One of my friends was actually married while she was in a hospital, only her husband attended the ceremony.

My Muslim friends have also educated me about their different tribes. The fashionistas and the businessmen and women are the Maranaos, the warriors are the Tausugs, the weavers are the Yankans, etc. When we talk about these things, I realize how very little I know about Muslims.

Every day when I go to the office or conduct a field interview, I always feel excited. I know it will be another day of discovery for me. When I see their faces, I don't see terrorists. What I see are humble and kind folks, just like all of us, searching for a peaceful life.

Jaime A. Manalo IV, 21, is a writer from the Philippine Rice Research Institute. He documents success stories of farmers who are taking part in the PRRI's Technical Cooperation Project 4 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Heroes

COMMENTARY

John Bengan

las to good writing. You are left with a little skill, a lot of inspiration, and hours and hours of practice.

When the provocations are up, writing, especially reportage, can also be a weapon. When Eugenia Apostol, 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism and Creative Communication Arts, transformed her work in a women's magazine into plucky journalism that fearlessly scrutinized a deceitful regime, she helped the Filipino people win back their freedom.

My own champion is the late great Nick Joaquin, another Ramon Magsaysay Awardee, whose singular achievements in his art stir young ones like me to strive for excellence. If you have read his works, such as the "Summer Solstice," "May Day Eve" and his novel "The Woman Who Had Two Navels," you'd know that Nick Joaquin always reached for greatness.

Every single piece he wrote, from short stories to news articles, he wrote exceptionally. In his famous 1996 lecture, he responded to one detractor who remarked that Nick Joaquin has turned bakya. This was in reference to a piece he wrote about Nora Aunor, the Superstar. Nick Joaquin replied, in typical fashion, that he was proud of having written about Nora Aunor because Nora Aunor was never bakya to him and he never went bakya on her.

When the opportunity is ripe, don't be afraid to wield your own words. As one poet famously said, a poem can't make things happen. But the written word can inspire a multitude. As demonstrated by the two novels written by our perennial

symbol of heroism, Rizal, 400 years of affliction can be stopped by burning inspiration.

Today, images in dizzying speed clamor for our attention. We always gravitate to what's new, what's hot, what's in or out. When something turns a little old, we get bored, we want something new. No matter if it's the same product, reality TV spectacle, or Internet fad, repackaged and upgraded for our feeble attention spans.

But greatness lasts. Greatness has immeasurable impact. Greatness is the only thing that can inspire us to be great.

Since its inception, the Ramon Magsaysay Award has honored heroes in Asia in the field of governance, creative arts, public service, international relations and leadership. Like the heroes we see on movies, television, or video games, these are individuals who defied odds and dared pursuits many of us thought were not humanly possible.

In a manner of speaking, they were able to leap bounds, endure adversity, conjure their own miracles. Some even braved censure, isolation, and untold hardships to bring about significant changes that rippled through other people's lives.

Now, the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition—on its fifth run in the Philippines—offers all young adults a chance to display their own brand of heroism. All high school and college students may submit essays on the theme "The Magsaysay Awardee Who Inspires Me Most: The Magsaysay Greatness of Spirit Lives." The contest has been extended until Oct. 12, 2007, entries may be sent to rmsec5phil@gmail.com.

John Bengan teaches Humanities at UP Mindanao. He won second prize in the Philippine Free Press literary award. He wrote this piece for the launching of the 5th Ramon Magsaysay Essay Competition in Davao.

WRITING, TO ME, IS AN ACT OF PRESERVATION. I strive to contain my thoughts as though in a ball of glass, freeze them solid using a string of words. In a way, I preserve the best things I can come up with, the best ideas I can think of. It is as much a gesture of the mind as it is of emotion. A poem can rouse a person who's about to fall asleep inside the classroom.

A piece of journalism can expose corruption to people blinded by power. A person who can appreciate a good piece of writing—like a story or an essay rich with human truths—reaps boundless rewards. He is transported to territories he has never visited, and meet characters we can only dream of.

We can see things we never thought were right there in the first place. A single book can contain a whole lifetime. Why do I talk about words and writing as if I was talking about the wonders of a Powerbook G4, or an ultra-high resolution DVD camcorder?

Words are better than machines. They never need batteries, chargeable or rechargeable; neither are they a subject of installment plans. If they're broken, you can still fix them. If there are too many of them, you can cut out and dispose some at your pleasure. Editing is an art of its own that you also have to hone. Words, if you wield them well, can travel through periods.

Remember the Ivatans whose songs of love and praise convey the timelessness of their way of life; the myths of the Manobos that resonate a worldview uniquely Mindanaoan, ours and ours alone to hold with pride before the rest of the world. However, this affair with words could also demand so much.

You have to throw away what you're doing, find a place well-lit and clean, and then you can read, and much, much later, you write. Writing demands commitment, like a mathematical equation. But unlike the latter, we have no easy formula.

The return of the First Gentleman

JAMRY (HEART) MAR. LAST TUESDAY, SENATE president pro tempore Jinggoy Estrada proudly sponsored the "Kasambahay Act" on the floor, fully expecting the bill to be passed on second reading in a breeze. But Sen. Jamry Madriga, thought differently and moved to interpellate. Estrada angrily protested, saying the debate had already been exhausted in the last Congress. (The proposed law has been several years in the making.) Before a further exchange of words, the Senate president promptly suspended the session. An hour later, a mollified Estrada returned to the floor to introduce minor amendments while Madrigal settled into her seat, waiting for the next bill to be read.

What happened? It was Madriga, herself who explained. While interpellating the next bill sponsor, Madrigal said Sen. Mar Roxas had been "very good to me" and complimented him for executing a "beautiful compromise" between her and Estrada. Like an abashed schoolboy, Roxas grinned and fidgeted in his seat.

The next night, in the middle of interpellating Sen. Loren Legarda on the bill amending the Small and Medium Enterprises Act, Madrigal, on the record, paid another compliment to Roxas, the bill's author, comparing him to Nobe. and Magsaysay laureate Mohammad Yunus, founder of the micro-finance pioneer Grameen Bank. Roxas, clearly flattered, said he did not deserve the comparison.

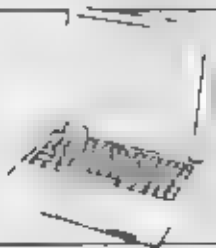
D. Passibugan

GENERAL KARMA. The change of command at the Philippine National Police has touched off some sort of a musical chairs game inside the National Headquarters in Camp Crame. Generals are moving in and out of their old and new offices almost simultaneously, making the NHQ building look like a dormitory on the first day of the school year.

Some police officers are extra careful about choosing their offices, however, lest bad luck rub off on them and stall their careers.

Take, for example, one senior police officer, a three-star general who many in Crame believe is next in line when new PNP Chief Gen.

BETWEEN DEADLINES



Avelino Razon retires next year.

His first plan was to stay put in his old office inside the NHQ building to avoid the hassle of transferring to his new office, just a few meters away. The plan was just to switch office signs to save time and effort, one informant told the *Inquirer*. After consulting with his staff, however, the general decided to move out of his old office.

The clincher? A member of his staff reminded the general that a now retired senior officer in the running for the PNP chief post a few years ago had occupied his office. Since that senior officer was not appointed PNP chief, the three-star general thought the office might be jinxed. That means the general is now definitely moving out, the informant said.

A. Papa

NO PUBLICITY PLEASE. All the First Gentleman's men wanted as little publicity as possible about the arrival of the President's husband from Hong Kong on Tuesday. Television reporters and crew and radio reporters who wanted to cover his return were denied passes to enter the airport's restricted premises.

Good thing airport-accredited reporters and photographers, called "in-house" media by airport officials, already had their monthly access passes. Not even Jose Miguel Arroyo himself could have barred them from covering his arrival—a much-anticipated event, since it was his first public appearance since businessman Jose de Venecia III, the son and namesake of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, claimed he had intervened in the controversial National Broadband Network project and said those now-infamous words, "Back off!"

Because only the airport beat reporters and

photographers had secured the all-important monthly passes (each of which takes three months to process), television networks had to rely on stringers from among the accredited lot to get the prized video of Arroyo's homecoming.

Airport General Manager Alfonso Cusi even jokingly invited the fortunate few for coffee elsewhere in the terminal in a last-ditch attempt to have them pull out of the unwanted coverage. Everyone, of course, just laughed Cusi's offer off.

It was evident that a low-key welcome for Arroyo was in the works. The door at the Dignitaries Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, where Very Important Persons pass upon arrival, displayed the sign "Closed: No reservations at this time"—even as Arroyo's arrival guards (Presidential Security Group men in plain clothes) waited inside.

The supposedly hush-hush arrival, however, was belied by the unusual presence of airport movers and shakers: Cusi, airport security chief and retired general Angel Arutubo, airport operations chief Octavio Lina, National Bureau of Investigation official Pedro Bulazong, chief airport customs collector Ding So, and a host of other airport security officers.

The officials flanked Arroyo as he walked to the waiting media.

T. Quimundo

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the June 16, 1988 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*:

Reporters covering the education beat have noticed a significant change in the way Education Secretary Lourdes Quisumbing reacts to questions. Unlike before, she is now more cautious about her statements, particularly on matters involving tuition and other school fees. Mediagen thought Quisumbing's sudden change was due to the flak she received from several sectors over the tuition controversy. The reason, however, is more than that.

Quisumbing said: "Ayaw ko nang mag-comment diyan. Nasa cartoons na nga ako, ah. Ayaw ko na." She obviously was referring to the *Inquirer*'s "A. Lipin" by Jess Abrera.

NBN still in a mess

THE RESIGNATION OF COMELEC CHAIR Benjamin Abalos did not end the people's quest for the truth behind the NBN-ZTE scam. If Malacañang thinks that by making Abalos the "sacrificial lamb" it has taken the heat off the couple in the Palace and put closure to this issue, then it is making a big mistake. Malacañang cannot fool us into believing that the "big bucks" of ZTE stopped with Abalos. The stink coming from Malacañang is simply too strong.

We call on former Neda director general Romulo Neri and his sense of patriotism and idealism to finally tell every-

thing he knows about this scam. We feel his full revelations will only confirm what we have known all along—that someone higher is at the top of this scandal. We remind Neri that public interest is paramount here, that he owes the Filipino people the whole truth.

Maypagasa calls on Neri to heed the highest calling of public service and we assure him that he cannot go wrong because the Filipino people are behind him.

—ROEL GARCIA,
spokesperson, Maypagasa,
roelgarcia_772000@yahoo.com

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Manuali best of three suggested sites for SCTEx interchange

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS STORY TITLED "Gloria execs continue word war on SCTEx" written by Tonette Orejas. (INQUIRER, 9/25/07)

Let me say that the issue at hand concerns the location of an interchange to be built along the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx). Some groups want the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to build two interchanges: one at Barangay Planas in Porac, and another at Barangay Margot in Angeles City. The BCDA, on the other hand, stands firm on President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to build the Porac-Angeles City interchange in Barangay Manuali.

The story gave the impression that I, as the head of the BCDA, am "still like a military general who strictly follows orders from the commander in chief" without advising her on the technical and financial aspects of the interchange. This is absolutely false.

President Arroyo issued the directive during the groundbreaking rites of the Texas Instruments in Clark last Aug. 16, af-

ter her consultations with local, provincial and city officials the night before. But even before she issued the directive, I had already gotten hold of the proposal and some degree of due diligence had been done.

The Porac-Angeles City interchange in Manuali is expected to benefit more people due to its accessibility to vital routes. It would also cost less at P280 million. On the other hand, the two interchanges being proposed by some groups would cost P838 million—the one at Margot would cost P578 million, while that at Porac will cost P260 million. It is not true that the two proposed interchanges would cost only P400 million as some sectors claim.

As I understand, the proposed Margot interchange includes constructing a 120-meter bridge over Abacan River, a 1.25-km Clark access road and two underpasses, all of which would be shouldered by the BCDA. Also, operating and maintaining two interchanges, instead of one, would be more costly in the long run.

Lastly, the Margot interchange would also affect the proposed construction of a

third runway for the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) as it would run directly into the runway's alignment. Access to SCTEx through the Margot interchange would go through the Clark main gate, which is already congested.

In sum, the Porac-Angeles interchange in Manuali is the most advantageous—financially, technically and economically—among the three proposed interchanges. This is a prime concern to the BCDA, after all, it is the agency that is responsible for paying the JBIC loan.

Rest assured, the BCDA, under my stewardship, will continue to perform its duties and obligations to the State as overseer of the development of former bases into growth areas and centers of trade and commerce.

—GEN. NARCISO L. ABAYA (RET),
president and CEO,
Bases Conversion
and Development Authority

For lack of space, the INQUIRER had to cut out parts of Orejas' report.—Ed.



Intellectual Property Rights Week Celebrates Creativity

Intellectual property rights (IPR) — patents, trademarks, and copyrights — have gained universal importance as a strategic tool for social and economic development. The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) celebrates the creativity of IP generators, particularly scientists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and artists, through a month-long calendar of events to mark the IPR Week, as declared in Presidential Proclamation No. 79 dated October 22, 1992. These activities showcase the value and importance of their creations in our daily lives.

Patent Helpdesk (Open to the Public)

Patent examiners will answer queries on IPR, patent granting procedures, and provide technical assistance in filing patent applications.

October 1 to 25, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TREK IP

A free basic orientation seminar series on IP, including a tour of IP Philippines, for select high school and college students.

October 3, 10, 17, and 24

HANDS-ON-IP (Open to the Public)

Free basic orientation seminars on IP for scientists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and artists, with free legal and technical assistance to be provided by volunteer lawyers, and patent and trademark examiners.

October 5, 1:00 p.m.: Trademark
October 12, 1:00 p.m.: Patent for inventions
October 19, 1:00 p.m.: Copyright
October 26, 1:00 p.m.: Patent for utility model and industrial design

Paint-A-Lot

An activity, held in cooperation with Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc., featuring the works of visual artists' group Wee Will Doodle on the perimeter wall of IP Philippines' parking lot.

October 6

Art In Denim (Open to the Public)

A contest, held in partnership with Levi Strauss Philippines, Inc., aimed at encouraging creativity and instilling awareness and respect for IP rights among participating elementary, high school, and college students. With guest performers Bicycle Mind, Pedicab, and Duster.

October 7: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Markell Market Activity Center
Bonifacio Global City

Kulay at Salaysay (Open to the Public)

An exhibit featuring the illustrations of Ang Ilustrador ng

Kabataan (Ang Ink) members, published by Adama House, at the Alab Art Space of IP Philippines.

October 12 to November 16

A series of storytelling sessions held in partnership with Adama House, for children ages 9 to 12 years old.

October 13: Morning sessions:
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Afternoon sessions:
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 20: Morning sessions:
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Afternoon sessions:
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 27: Sessions exclusive to children of IP Philippines employees

Pre-registration is required. Complete names and ages of participants and the adults who will accompany them must be e-mailed to patricia.dimacano@ipophil.gov.ph and marcomm@ipophil.gov.ph.

whizIP (Open to the Public)

An exhibit showcasing the inventions of young inventors of the Innovation Area of IP Philippines.

October 16 to November 16

Motorcade

To kick off the IPR Week celebration, participants from the government and private sectors will drive through the major streets in Makati City as part of their public awareness campaign.

October 22, 2:00 p.m.

Copyright Seminars

Basic copyright seminars to be conducted by IP

Philippines' Copyright Support Services Unit

October 8: Performers' Rights Society of the Philippines

October 13: End Frame Video Art Festival

PROTECT Program

Training seminars on enforcement under the Intellectual Property Rights Protection (IPROTECT) Training Program of the NCIPR.

October 9: Levi Strauss Philippines, Inc.
October 25: Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

IP Concert

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) present Kilig sa Orig, featuring John Lasaca, Mitch Valdes, Richard Merk, Paolo Santos and other artists. Ticket is P500.

October 26, 7:30 p.m.: Teatrino, The Promenade
Greenhills, San Juan

IPR Forum for Science Journalists

An IPR Forum for media practitioners and industry representatives organized by IP Philippines and the Philippine Science Journalists Association, Inc. (PSJourn).

October 25: Phivolcs Auditorium

ASEAN Patent Seminar

"Regional Workshop on Search and Examination in the field of Nanotechnology - Electronics and Chemistry" organized by IP Philippines and the European Patent Office (EPO).

October 22 to 26: EDSA Shangri-La

Patent for Development Forum

"The Use of Patents for National Development" conducted by the Intellectual Property Alumni Association (IPAA) and Japan Patent Office (JPO).

October 24 to 25: Dusit Hotel Nikko

For more information, please call Leo Losantos or Jun Belleza of the Customer Service Department at 752-5450 to 65 local 207, or e-mail leo.losantos@ipophil.gov.ph or junus.belleza@ipophil.gov.ph.

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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Pain lingers a year after bridge tragedy

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Igbaras, Iloilo

THEY CRIED AS THE miniature boats with red and yellow flowers and candles were carried gently by the same waters that took their loved ones a year ago. The healing has been slow for the people of Igbaras, 39 kilometers southwest of Iloilo City

On Tuesday, about 500 of them commemorated the first anniversary of the Songsongon tragedy that killed 22 of their relatives and friends and caused the disappearance of 19 others. They included survivors, families of the victims, and town officials who attended Mass at the multipurpose gymnasium at the town proper.

A caravan led to the site of the accident in Sitio Songsongon, Barangay Barasan, 5 km away, where 200 more people waited.

The boats bore the names of the dead and missing, and were released to the Tangyan River in remembrance of those who died on Oct. 2, 2006, when an overloaded jeepney was swept by rampaging waters and fell into the river at the height of Typhoon "Neneng."

The bodies of 22 passengers were found. Nineteen were still missing and presumed dead. Twenty-four survived.

Funeral rites

The victims had attended the funeral of retired teacher Remo Eguico at the municipal cemetery and were on their way home when



A RELATIVE of a victim of the Songsongon river tragedy releases a miniature sailboat to the river to commemorate the Oct. 2, 2006 vehicular accident in Sitio Songsongon, Barangay Barasan, Igbaras, Iloilo that left 22 people dead and 19 others missing.

ARNOLD ALMACE

the jeepney's engine conked out on the Songsongon overflow bridge. Several times, the vehicle overturned and was swept off by rampaging waters to a drop of more than six feet.

Almost all of the passengers came from villages in the Kipot area, so named because of two mountains that enclose the 11 barangays.

A year after the tragedy, families of the missing are still hoping to find their loved ones.

Rosalie Ermeje, 23, said she has accepted the fate of her mother Rosalinda but wished that her remains would be found. "The pain will always be there until she is found," she said.

Vivina Embiado, 14, the eldest of four siblings, said they were still struggling to live without their parents. Their mother Evangelina died

while their father Victor has remained missing.

A shrine with the image of the Virgin Mary and etched with the names of the survivors, dead and missing was constructed at one end of the overflow bridge.

Villagers have also erected a marker in Barangay Barasan for Marbel del Rio who drowned after saving four passengers.

Lament

But the townsfolk lamented that a year after the loss of many lives, their call for the construction of a regular bridge to prevent more accidents had remained unheeded.

"Please President (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), help us by putting a bridge here," said Arnold Eluma Jr., son of Margarita who was among the fatalities.

Fr. Francis Nicolasa, the town's parish priest, said the bridge had remained an unfulfilled dream of the people. "The government has the capacity to put up a bridge if it wants to," he said.

Built in 1989, the overflow concrete bridge has no side railings and has culverts underneath. Water usually overflows during heavy and continuous rain or when the culverts are clogged by debris.

Igbaras Mayor Jaime Esmeralda said the construction of a regular bridge needed a funding of P50 million to P80 million from the national government.

Ms. Arroyo's assistant for Panay and Guimaras, Raul Bantias, said he would convey

the appeal of the people to the President.

In the meantime, the provincial and municipal governments are planning to put up a P600,000-hanging bridge that can be used when the overflow bridge becomes impassable to vehicles. The provincial government has allocated P300,000 while the municipal government will add another P50,000.

But the villagers said disaster could strike again until a regular bridge is constructed.

On Sept. 29, a jeepney almost fell into the river after it was dragged by strong current, said Daniel Mendoza, municipal disaster officer.

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Oct. 8-10, 9am-5pm

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Poaching haunts Sierra Madre doves

TUGUEGARAO CITY—THE ENDEMIC SPECIES FLAME-breasted fruit dove (*Ptilinopus marchei*) found at the Peñafranca protected area and at the Northern Sierra Madre natural park are helping regreen forests as they help in dispersal of seeds.

Their number, however, is dwindling due to rapid hunting and selling at the markets as pets, environmentalists said.

Artemio Antolin, Conservation International (CI) biodiversity corridor program director, said the doves' contribution to regreening the forests is important because the seeds they usually eat are undamaged and deposited on the soil as they defecate.

CI records showed that at least

seven endemic species of doves were recorded in recent biodiversity surveillance at the Peñafranca protected area.

At least 56 endemic species of birds have been recorded in Peñafranca's protected area which include the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), Whiskered Pitta (*Pitta kochi*), and Philippine Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus philippensis*), according to CI records.

Local bird advocates in the re-

gion have also set their eyes on protecting the Luzon bleeding heart (*Gallicolumba luzonica*) following reports of massive hunting at the Peñafranca protected area in Cagayan and the Northern Sierra Madre natural park in Isabela.

William Savelle, Palanan community environment and natural resources officer and concurrent Northern Sierra Madre protected area superintendent, said the bird—which has white underparts with deep orange red spot on the breast and grey wing bars—has been illegally hunted.

He asked members of Bantay Kalikasan, an environment watchdog based in Isabela's coastal towns, to help protect the dove species. **William Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon**



THE PORTAL of the JBMCC tunnel, one of the major players in the gold rush area.

(JEFFREY TUPAS/INQUIRER MINDANAO)

Threats hound co-op execs after scam

BATANGAS CITY—OFFICIALS OF AN electric cooperative in Batangas who exposed the alleged wrongdoing of some members of its board of directors on Wednesday disclosed threats to their lives.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, 11 senior executives of the Batangas II Electric Cooperative (Batelec II) said they had been receiving anonymous calls and threatening text messages on their mobile phones in the last few days.

Marilyn Caguimbal, Batelec II general manager, said the threats started when they led the inquiry into the

controversial P75-million computerization project and the purported anomalous purchase of 10 boom trucks worth over P6 million.

The projects, she said, were approved without bidding by eight members of the board, including its head Reynaldo Panaligan, a reporter of the Manila Bulletin.

"The past several months (have) been very tense for us," she said.

"Even security experts whom we have asked to assess the threats concluded that they were indeed genuine."

Caguimbal said among those who

received threatening text messages was Edith Zara, manager of the co-op's Administrative Services Department.

She said the message on Zara's cellular phone read: "Gud pm. Edith sobra na ang pagpapahirap mo s amin parang wla kang naging pkina-bang s amin sobrang sipsip mo dyan sa amo mong c Marilyn at s kbit mong direktor magsama sama n kaunting ipapatay ka. Sobra ka na kala mo uubra yan alalay mo."

Caguimbal said Zara received the message on Sept. 22 from mobile phone No. 09282746684. **Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon**

3 miners trapped in cave-in

DAVAO CITY—THREE SMALL-SCALE MINERS were trapped when a tunnel collapsed in Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley on Wednesday.

Franco Tito, village chair of Mt. Diwata, said the cave-in took place in the so-called Australia mining tunnel, one of the dozens of portals that small-scale miners use to extract gold from Mt. Diwata.

"They were last seen entering the portal on Wednesday noon at about 3 p.m.," he said.

Tito identified the trapped miners as Julie Salupan, 35; Generito Salupan, 32 and Fermin Piquero Jr., 33.

Tito said rescue teams organized by the village reported hearing faint voices as of yesterday morning.

"The rescue operation is still ongoing," Tito told the INQUIRER.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Office of the

Civil Defense (OCD) have already warned miners against possible cave-ins in the past.

The warning was issued after an MGB study last year found that Mt. Diwata's ground soil has become less stable.

Residents living near slopes were also told to relocate to safer grounds because there was a high risk of landslide in the gold-rush area, which is also known as Diwalwal.

"We have been telling them to relocate to a safer ground," OCD regional director Carmelito Lupo said.

Tito admitted that miners were already advised to stop using some of the tunnels because of past cave-ins.

But he said the urge to earn money have pushed the miners to ignore the warnings.

The government has been lobbying for foreign investors to operate a large scale open pit mining, which the small-scale miners had opposed. **Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao**

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NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF	DATE OF DEATH
1. Jaime Amante	Unknown	Ely E. Amante	March 24, 1999
2. Jesse Florio Bacas	Brgy. Tabique, E.B. Magallana, Negros Occ.	Romeo Bacas	January 3, 2006
3. Lady Resuena	Mandao City, Cebu		August 19, 2007
4. Zevalede Fajardo	Unknown		July 29, 2007
5. Romeo, Jr., Margarita, Arturo, Margarita, Jr.	Unknown	Romeo B. Bacalisia	June 2, 2000
6. Elizabeth, Elmar, Jubeth, Margao	Unknown	Enillo Y. Benitez	September 26, 2006
7. Maria Cristina	354 Zaragoza St., Marikina City	Edgar Cantillero	March 12, 2007
8.	Fernand Village, Brgy. 7, Victoria City	Ronald Cayao	May 11, 2007
9. Teodoro	Unknown	Teodoro De Castro, Jr.	May 26, 2002
10. Evelyn Y. Fernandez	Unknown	Manolito D. Fernandez	June 23, 2007
11. Rosalinda N. Garcia	Zapote, Las Pintas, MM	Domador D. Garcia	February 28, 2007
12.		Anacillo German	July 25, 2007
13. Luzviminda Holdres	576 Samson Road, Calapan City	Tomas I. Gonzales	November 17, 2003
14. Heriberto Guffarom	Mayaguez, Iloilo		November 24, 2006
15. Judith Dinsano		Emilio L. Lopez	December 28, 2006
16. Dalisay F. Lumba	96-C 12th Ave., Marikina City	Alfredo L. Lumba	July 12, 2007
17. Marimar Magbarran	3-B Makaya St., La Loma, Q.C.	Joemel C. Magbarran	May 25, 1998
18. Mary E. Joemar			
19. Charlie Mendoza			June 24, 2007
20. Gregorio Agala	Sta. Elena, Iloilo, Manila	Rogelio Motion	April 4, 2007
21. Pamela Balbino	Tungao, Butuan City	Nemesio Molera	May 13, 2007
22. Norma E. Odjoy		Domador Odjoy	June 24, 2006
23. Nellie Go Paule	322 A. Coral St., Marikina City	Antonio D. Paule	June 7, 2007
24. Teresita Ciron	Unknown	Marvin R. Perales	August 17, 2007
25. Teresita Pastor	San Pascual, Batangas	Victoriano E. Pastor	
26. Norberto Savi	BFG-Turkeyhunting Plantation, Bataan Province	Norberto Salmorin	April 11, 2007
27. Ramon Sibul, Jr.	Pagbajao, Quezon	Romulo A. Savi	May 14, 2007
28. Mitagros Porillo	Santos, Butuan		February 13, 2007
29.	Unknown		February 23, 2002
30.	Alegria, Surigao		August 2, 2007
31.	611 Gen. T. De Leon, Villagonza	Erle Villagonza	November 7, 2002

Oct 6, 2007

- Nothing Follows -

Most wanted man tagged in vice mayor's slay

PAGSANJAN, LAGUNA—Police identified one of the assailants of the anti-drug vice mayor of Lumban town, who died after trading shots with his assassins.

Chief Insp. Jesus Kabigting, executive officer of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG), identified the gunman as Luisito San Juan, the most wanted man in the Calabarzon Region who carries a P1 million reward on his head.

Vice Mayor Zaldy Raga died of multiple gunshot wounds after he was attacked by two gunmen.

Kabigting, however, said they were not sure if San Juan was the gunman or the driver of the motorcycle that was used in the attack.

"We're still validating our information from the field about the role of San Juan in the ambush," he said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

He said San Juan was the self-confessed gunman of human rights lawyer Clarence Agarao, who was killed in Sta. Cruz town more than 11 years ago. **Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon**



Villar to Madrigal: Nobody can order me around, except my wife

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SENATE PRESIDENT MANNY Villar has taken offense at Sen. Jambay Madrigal's charge that Malacañang and a powerful businessman influenced him to prod Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano into shifting gears in the inquiry into the National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp.

"Nobody called me about the Senate investigation, and whoever said that is a liar," Villar said yesterday, adding that it was not his style to meddle in the work of the committee chairs.

"Modesty aside, I have been independent in all my political life. Nobody can order me around, not even the President, not even the Chief Justice, except probably my wife (Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar)," he said.

Villar said he had no problem with Madrigal's threat for him and

Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee and of the NBN-ZTE inquiry, to be investigated by the ethics committee.

But he said that if Madrigal could not prove her allegation, she should be prepared to also face the ethics committee.

"I think our fellow senators should respect each other and act more responsibly," he said.

Better to go slow

Villar said he was standing by Cayetano's decision to hold off on the NBN-ZTE hearings until Oct. 25, or almost a month after the most recent hearing, because there was need to study and consolidate the information gathered so far.

"For me, it is better that we go slow on this. We don't want the Senate to look stupid if we don't adhere to the le-

gal procedures, especially since these are very serious issues," he said.

He also said he was too busy with other Senate matters to monitor the next NBN-ZTE hearing.

"I have full faith in Senator Cayetano. He is a brilliant senator. He knows what he is doing, and I have no doubt of his abilities and integrity," Villar said.

Razon

Although Madrigal did not mention the businessman's name, it is widely believed that she was referring to International Container Terminal Services Inc. chair Enrique Razon, who has been linked as a participant in the NBN deal.

Villar said that like Cayetano, he knew Razon but "we are not that close and we meet each other only on very few occasions."

Madrigal and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had proposed to invite Razon to the next hearing.

But Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said inviting Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, and previous witnesses should be enough for the Oct. 25 hearing.

Estrada said he saw no need to invite Razon because "there is no direct evidence that Razon is privy to the NBN deal, as shown in the initial Senate investigation."

"The Senate should be responsible enough to call resource persons who have direct knowledge of the issues being investigated," he said.

Good enough

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said it was "good enough" that Cayetano had set a hearing on Oct. 25 with Mike Arroyo as the main witness, rather than

keeping the rest of the senators in the dark on when the next hearing would be

Lacson said that if former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri would invoke executive privilege to evade questions on the President's participation in the NBN deal, the Senate could extract the information from at least five persons that Neri spoke with before the hearing.

Lacson identified some of them as columnist Jarius Bondoc, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora and Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolet Suplico.

He said that while the Senate would rather have Neri telling it, the chamber could resort to the testimony of people in whom Neri had confided.

"We want to know why the contract was signed despite the President telling him not to accept the bribe," Lacson said.

GMA muzzles Cabinet, confirms Neri bribe story

From page A1

said, adding that she had told Neri to reject Abalos' supposed offer.

(At a Senate hearing on Sept. 26, Neri said Abalos had offered him an implied P200-million bribe to approve the NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp., and that he had reported the offer to the President. Abalos denied this vehemently at the same hearing.)

On Neri's invoking of executive privilege to avoid testifying in the Senate on his conversations with her on the ZTE deal, the President said:

"I want to discipline my Cabinet members. They shouldn't be leaking out things that we talked about. You know, we debate and everything. You're not supposed to reveal these things, or else we will no longer have the freedom to discuss

"In any part of the world, there's executive privilege. We can't have Cabinet members going around saying what the President said."

The President also clarified that the NBN project was still a "priority" of her administration but that she would let the private sector determine its implementation.

"They have to sit down and [recognize] that there's a problem on the broadband. I mean, look at the telecom companies ... Technically, what they do to assist, how much would it [cost]? Surely, it's not going to be the same," she said, adding:

"We will present the problem to them and they have to suggest solutions."

'I'm the President'

Asked about her role in pushing the NBN project, Ms Arroyo said:

"I'm the President, so I set policy directions. That's what I do. I think we have been telling it from the beginning we have this P3-billion [communications] bill, we have to look for a way to bring that down. We had to go VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). I said it in my 2004 inaugural address. That's my role."

She did not comment when asked

about her husband's involvement in the ZTE deal, and merely said: "I don't comment on political things. I don't give opinion. I give only facts. The facts I give should be shared because they are relevant to policies."

The President then called attention to the speech she delivered on Sept. 25 at a meeting in Malacañang.

In that speech, the President confirmed the earlier announcement of Trade Secretary Peter Favila that she had "suspended the National Broadband and Cyber Education Projects (CEP) in response to political criticisms."

"The suspension of the said projects has created a gap in these aspects of our 10-point agenda," she said, adding:

"Government telecom savings of P3 billion a year from broadband may not be forthcoming, slashing that much from funds for social services. And world-class ICT (information communications technology) might no longer reach 4th- to 6th-class municipalities and the least endowed schools."

At the time, the President also announced the creation of "a special panel to oversee projects" under the China Official Development Assistance program.

She said yesterday that the CEP and the rest of the China ODA-funded projects were under "review" by the oversight panel to be led by Favila.

Strained ties with China

Ms Arroyo said the suspension of the CEP unduly strained the government's relations with China.

"We said also that by 2010 we would like every high school to be connected. If you're a high school student in a 6th-class municipality, how can you be connected now without the Cyber Ed? Not to mention unduly straining also our relationship with China," she said.

This was why, she said, she had to fly to Shanghai—to personally meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao on Tuesday to "explain" her "difficult deci-

sion."

"Thank goodness, thank goodness, our relationship has been very good that it can weather this kind of issue," she said.

'Like an expressway'

The President described a broadband network—the backbone of her administration's plan to connect government offices in Manila to the smallest municipality in the countryside—as "like an expressway."

She said there was "no connectivity" in the countryside.

"There's a problem ... They (the private sectors) should give suggestions," she said.

According to the President, she asked Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza early this month to meet with telecommunications companies in the Philippines to "fill the gap" in the aftermath of the scrapping of the NBN deal with ZTE.

The President said a broadband network was crucial to the expansion of business process outsourcing in the Philippines and the need to cut back on government communications expenses.

"I asked Larry (Mendoza) to talk to them to see how they can help. That's the whole point. Right now we're spending P3 billion on our own telecoms, so we want to go VoIP," she said.

She also said the plan to "connect the entire country digitally" had been "really derailed."

Doctors' advice

In Manila, the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, will seek his doctors' advice before deciding whether to attend the Senate inquiry into the \$329-million deal with ZTE, his lawyer Ruy Rondain told the Inquirer on the phone.

The blue ribbon committee chaired by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is leading the inquiry into the NBN-ZTE project. The inquiry is to resume on Oct. 25.

"We have to clear it with his doc-

tors," Rondain said of Arroyo, who hurdled high-risk heart surgery in April and is under instruction to avoid stressful activities.

Rondain said that as of press time, no invitation from the Senate blue ribbon committee had been received by Malacañang or Arroyo's office at the LTA Building in Makati City.

Juris Soliman, Arroyo's chief of staff, also said as much: "We will go to the doctor when we receive the invitation. I haven't seen any invitation from the Senate."

Soliman questioned Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's accusation—aired at a Senate hearing—that Arroyo had tried to bully him into backing off from the NBN project.

She said Arroyo was not involved in any lobbying or bribery attempt in connection with the ZTE deal.

"His name is not even mentioned in [De Venecia III's] sworn affidavit, so why was he suddenly mentioned in the hearing? There's something wrong with that," she said.

De Venecia III, son and namesake of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, owns Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

Soliman also denied reports that Arroyo was flying to Las Vegas to watch the rematch of Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera.

"He will just watch the fight on television," she said.

Closure

According to Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, a former chief of staff of the President, the Senate should ensure satisfactory closure when it wraps up its NBN-ZTE inquiry or the government will have a hard time pursuing future "big-ticket" projects.

Salceda, who continues to advise Ms Arroyo on economic matters, said closure would be "good for the country."

"I think if there is a single biggest casualty in this entire controversy, [it is] the ability of the national government to pursue and implement aggressively

big-ticket projects," Salceda told reporters in Malacañang.

"That is why it is far better for the Senate to have some form of closure, or conclusion. If you leave that hanging, every single big-ticket account will be under suspicion," he said, adding:

"The only way to clear the cloud of suspicion is to [issue] a final report, a closure."

IT literacy

Asked whether the President should pursue the NBN project, Salceda said it would be best for the country to "pursue efforts toward improving IT (information technology) literacy in government."

He said he had read about Preginet, a project managed by the Department of Science and Technology, and thought that the government could pursue this project.

"If the President asks me, it's Preginet," he said.

Growth driven

Salceda also said that had it not been for the NBN-ZTE controversy, the Philippines would easily achieve its target 8-percent growth in 2008.

He was referring to Plan 789—a new strategy to achieve a three-year surge in gross domestic product (GDP)—which the Arroyo administration adopted early this year.

The plan calls for higher Philippine GDP—7 percent in 2007, 8 percent in 2008, and 9 percent in 2009.

"I think the economy has enough traction to really do more than 7 percent this year, and without this controversy, 8 percent would have been easy in 2008," he said.

Salceda said the growth driver for the country this year was an aggressive infrastructure program through the President's "super regions" program.

"The central idea behind 789 is an aggressive public infrastructure program, and in this case this controversy hurts," he said.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila

Ties that bind also blind families of officials in hot seat

From page A1

"You look at that picture and you see someone enjoying the trust and confidence of his family in times of trouble, whether he's a sinner or a saint," said sociologist Josephine Aguilar-Placido of the University of Sto. Tomas.

Placido was referring to news photos of Abalos announcing his resignation surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren at the family residence in Mandaluyong City. In that dramatic setting, the man maintained that his decision to quit should not be taken as a sign of guilt, and vowed to fight his accusers in court to clear his name.

Perhaps to similarly besieged officials, these are "the people who matter—not those clamoring in the streets," added Dr. Cristina Montiel, a political and peace psychologist of the

Ateneo de Manila University.

Whether right or wrong

University of the Philippines professor Dan Magat, who pursues the study of "Filipino philosophy," said: "We have apparently not developed a kind of politics that is truly Asian in character, where officials hold their honor in high regard with respect to the larger community [or beyond the family]."

Instead, "our family structure has become such that it will protect you whether you are right or wrong," he observed. "And this is why it is difficult to induce public apologies."

To be sure, the Philippine political scene has seen controversial resignations made in protest (like the case of the "Hyatt 10") or in connection with an impending Cabinet revamp.

But true mea culpas—resignations

that are marked with remorse or a sense of shame over some exposed wrongdoing—are now a rarity, if not practically unheard of.

Biggest get-rich-quick in town

The experts cited several factors. Who, said Dr. Clarita Carlos, a UP political science professor, would want to let go of a government job if it has proven to be the biggest "get-rich-quick" scheme in town?

Why quit, Carlos said, when the justice system has been "compromised," sanctions are "not too painful" to deter graft and corruption, and "everyone's hands are dirty," anyway?

"And being very 'social and political animals,' [our public officials] have become masters of creating social networks—through weddings, baptisms and similar activities—that can later

work as back channels for aborting attempts to indict them for wrongdoing," she added.

Observed Montiel: "As a nation, we have yet no history of punishment for transgressions [in government service]."

Gov't job as private property

"During our colonial period and then under the Marcos dictatorship, the people never felt that they 'owned' the government and that holding positions there entail duties and responsibilities."

"Hence, when some of us later got into it, they regarded their jobs as though these are private property than can be used for personal gain."

A simple example is a supervisor or director who has no qualms using a government service vehicle to collect

his children from school or run errands for the household, Montiel said.

'Delicadeza'

Placido recalled a time when delicadeza (propriety) reigned in the bureaucracy.

She said she could still feel this sensitivity among government executives in the 1960s, but "when the time of Marcos came, he did not send a good signal to future politicians."

The resulting norm was for one to "stick to his [or her] position despite strong allegations or evidence of wrongdoing," Placido said. "And this somehow has since become a great influence on the next generation of public leaders."

The Polish writer Stanislaw Lec put it well: "In an avalanche, each snowflake pleads not guilty."

Chilean dictator's widow, 5 children arrested over loot

From page A1

claiming the arrest order was illegal.

"This is an illegal, abusive decision that violates the basic rights of individuals," said Hiriart's lawyer Pablo Rodriguez.

Hiriart, 87, was rushed to Santiago's Military Hospital after she was taken ill upon hearing the news, her lawyer said. The five children were taken to jail.

"I'm worried about the health of my grandmother, she is of an advanced age," said Rodrigo Garcia, a grandson

of Hiriart, who lives in Miami.

No special treatment

Justice Minister Carlos Maldonado said that he would not grant any form of privileged treatment to the jailed Pinochet family. "We Chileans are all equal before the law," he said.

Cerda also ordered the arrest of 17 others, including former aides and lawyers of the late strongman. Among those ordered arrested were Pinochet's former personal secretary Monica Anasias, his ex-spokesperson Guillermo

Garin and his lawyer Gustavo Collao.

The judge is in charge of a case in which Pinochet allegedly secreted away more than \$25 million with the help of the Washington-based Riggs bank.

US probe

The case came to light in 2004 when a US Senate probe found hundreds of accounts in the name of Pinochet and his relatives at the bank.

The Communist Party, banned during the military regime, hailed Thursday's arrests. "It is a great step toward the truth of

what the Pinochet dictatorship really was," the party said in a statement.

Pinochet, whose 1973-1990 rule was marked by the torture and deaths of thousands of people, died in December at the age of 91 after suffering a heart attack.

He was under house arrest at the time.

Trial in absentia

His death ended years of efforts to bring him to justice for the killings of dissidents and the alleged embezzlement of state funds during his military

regime. He avoided prosecution as his lawyers argued dementia hindered his ability to defend himself.

But France plans to try in absentia 17 associates of the late dictator for the disappearance of four French nationals in the 1970s.

Among the defendants cited in the French indictment are Manuel Contreras, founder of the secret police, and Paul Schaefer, who founded Colonia Dignidad, a secretive colony used for the detention of political prisoners during the dictatorship. **AFP**

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Noli urges interfaith dialogue at UN

UNITED NATIONS—PHILIPPINE VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro called on United Nations member states on Thursday to adopt a common plan of action to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, and encourage interfaith centers in schools.

De Castro made the call in a speech where he delivered the Philippine government's statement at the opening of the two-day high level dialogue for Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace at the UN Headquarters.

The speech sets the tone for the ensuing dialogue and raises the awareness on the need to understand and promote cultural and religious harmony to attain peace through the Philippine experience, according to a statement from the Vice President's office.

The concept of interreligious and intercultural dialogue is not new to the Philippines. Our country had its share of problems related to diverse ethnic and religious minority populations. Thus, the highest Law of our land, the Philippine Constitution, mandates the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the religious minorities and indigenous peoples," De Castro said.

'Diversity is a virtue'

De Castro was apparently referring to ethnic and religious conflict in the South, but the Associated Press noted that he did not mention continuing clashes between government troops and suspected Muslim militants.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told the high-level UN meeting that there is an urgent need to address rising cultural and religious tensions by promoting diversity and dialogue.

"It is time to promote the idea that diversity is a virtue, not a threat," he said.

Ban said that while traveling the globe since taking office on Jan. 1, he has too often found that people are longing for peace but suffering from prejudice because of their ethnicity, skin color, cultural or linguistic background and "above all" their religion.

"It is time to explain that different religions, belief systems and cultural backgrounds are essential to the richness of the human experience," Ban said.

Crucial role

The General Assembly, with its 192 member states, provides a unique forum for exchange among countries, religions and cultures, he said.

General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, of Macedonia opened the two-day session stressing the UN's "crucial role" in promoting talks and "advancing the fundamental freedom that we must all respect others' religions and beliefs."

"To make peace, some people believe that you need to forget," he

said. "From my own experience, I would suggest that reconciliation is a fair compromise between remembering and forgetting."

Kerim said what is needed is intensive dialogue at the political, cultural and social levels. He also suggested that governments adopt educational curricula that instill values of peace and tolerance.

"Children are not born with prejudice, it is learned," Kerim said.

Karen Hughes, the US under-secretary of state for public diplomacy, said, "Faith is foundational in many people's lives, and world leaders would not be wise to ignore its power or cede its discussion to extremists."

She said that she believes the vast majority of people of every faith and culture share the same human dreams: "education and health care, a safe neighborhood, a good job, and most people want their lives to make a difference."

Islam is no threat

Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said that "misunderstanding and friction between cultures and civilizations are not the result of religious differences. They arise from divergent political perspectives on some important issues such as the crises in the Middle East."

Akram said there are perceptions in the West about Islam, "which is seen as a faith propagating terrorism and extremism and bent upon striking at Western values."

"Islam is not a threat to the Western civilization," he said. AP



NOLI AT UN. Vice President Noli de Castro delivers a speech outlining the Philippine position at the high-level Dialogue for Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace at the Assembly Hall of the United Nations. Behind him are UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim.

1 killed, 28 hurt in Kidapawan blasts

DIGOS CITY—AN 8-YEAR-OLD girl was killed while 26 others were wounded when two improvised bombs went off in Kidapawan City Friday night.

Chief Insp. Leo Ajero, Kidapawan City police chief, said the bombs exploded in front of the Sugni Store along Quezon Avenue.

Insp. Benjamin Mauricio of the

Kidapawan police intelligence division said the first bomb was attached to a parked multicab. Five minutes later, a bomb left along the road also exploded.

Mauricio identified the 8-year-old girl as Hannah May Lozada.

North Cotabato Governor Jesus Sacdalan said a suspect had been arrested. *Inquirer Mindanao*

Satur held anew at Naia

By Tarra Quismundo

BAYAN MUNA REP SATUR Ocampo was held briefly at the airport yesterday morning while on his way to Geneva, Switzerland to attend a convention of parliamentarians.

Ocampo, one of the Arroyo administration's staunchest critics, was held for around an hour by officers of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) at the N.oy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 after a routine pre-departure BI check showed a hold departure order (HDO) under his name.

The lawmaker was eventually allowed to leave when immigration officers learned that the HDO was no longer valid.

It was the second time that the militant lawmaker was prevented from leaving the country.

In June last year, Ocampo was held while going through pre-departure checks at the airport because of a similar order. At that time, he was also on his way to Geneva to attend the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Ocampo had arrived at the airport with fellow sectoral Rep. Liza Maza of Gabriela around 7:30 a.m. yesterday, Fernando said.

Maza's name appeared on a separate immigration watchlist, but she was not barred from leaving.

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Cameras set up for anticrime drive

Group views move as violation of right to privacy

By Alvin Papa
and Tina G. Santos

CLOSED CIRCUIT television cameras (CCTVs) have been set up in 56 Metro Manila sites as part of the police's anticriminality and antiterrorism campaign.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Avelino Razon said yesterday the cameras were "strategically located" in places of convergence like Quapo, Monumento, Bacaran and Makati City.

He advised people to "always smile" when they were walking, a grinning Razon told reporters in Camp Crame yesterday.

The CCTVs were wired to a main hub in Camp Crame. Police monitored video feed from the cameras, Razon said.

The PNP chief added that one CCTV camera was equivalent to 10 policemen.

Razon said the cameras were first installed during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Ministerial Meeting in Manila in July, then again, during the Asean Economic Ministers meeting in Makati City in August.

In Cebu City, CCTVs were installed for the Asean Summit in January.

He encouraged others, particularly the private sector and local government units, to install their own CCTVs saying the PNP needed as many CCTVs as possible to help deter crime.

Razon said existing CCTVs were vital in solving some crimes, primarily bank robberies.

But militant groups see a more sinister agenda in the move.

"What are the cameras for and under what law or ordinance are they operating? The basic fear is that we are becoming a police state where the right to privacy is disregarded simply by invoking national security," Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes told the INQUIRER.



AN EMPLOYEE of a bus company in Manila takes pictures of its province-bound passengers. The police initiative is expected to help ensure the safety of travellers from persons who board the vehicles with robbery on their mind.

REM ZAPORA

If unchecked, the CCTVs could be used to "spy on people," he added. But Razon said the CCTVs would not be used against journalists or "enemies of the state."

He said CCTVs were effective in solving last year's train station bombings in London.

Razon added he did not need any permission to install the cameras. Even a private citizen can put a CCTV on their gate," he said, adding that some hotels and bus companies have already installed cameras in their establishments.

Yesterday, the Manila Police District (MPD) also started to take pictures of bus passengers, taking them by surprise. The MPD's move, assured Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, Manila Police District director, did not

violate human rights.

He said the picture-taking was the police's new strategy to prevent robberies, particularly aimed at those going to the provinces.

"This would allow us to easily identify robbers who prey on bus commuters. It would reduce or eliminate the opportunity for robbers to strike," he said. Rosales said he adopted the same strategy when he was the provincial director of Cavite and Quezon.

Preventive

The new scheme is also expected to help prevent acts of terrorism, he said.

Rosales signed a memorandum of agreement with owners and operators of bus companies to ensure the success of the program.

The new anticriminality

scheme, dubbed "Larawan para sa Ligas na Paglalakbay," was tested in some bus terminals along Rizal and Doroteo Jose Avenues in Manila. Rosales said the program would eventually be replicated in other public utility vehicle terminals.

The bus companies would keep passengers' photos on file and review them following incidents of bus robberies, the MPD chief said. He said only employees of bus companies could take pictures of passengers.

Many passengers welcomed the move, saying it made them feel safer and secure.

"I don't mind. I think it's for our own good. But I just hope they do it fast," Carolyn Dawn Peralta, a student from Sta. Ana, Manila, added.

But some saw it as an invasion of their privacy. "It would look like we, the passengers, are all suspects," Geronimo Angeles, 45, a businessman from Pampanga, said. "And who knows? The photographs can be used against us."

Delay

"I just hope that the picture-taking won't take long. Otherwise, it could delay our travels," a visibly irked Teresita Vibal, a housewife from San Andres, Manila, said.

Rosales said he would ask bus companies to put up notices to inform passengers about the procedure.

Those who refused to be photographed would be subjected to more stringent frisking, Rosales added.

PLMun president denies second job

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa claimed yesterday his work with a Leyte-based school was not "moonlighting" as it did not interfere with his duties at the university.

Dr. Miguel Udtohan said he was only a member of the College of Maasin's board of trustees, not its president.

The Muntinlupa City government said earlier Udtohan was president of the Leyte-based school, and his "moonlighting" had greatly demoralized the students at PLMun.

Open

"I had always been open regarding my connection with The College of Maasin, as a member of its Board of Trustees.

The board meets only twice in a school year, so it cannot hamper my function as PLMun president," Udtohan said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER reported earlier that several teaching and non-teaching personnel at the PLMun were terminated in June.

Motive

The move was made after city mayor Aldrin San Pedro assumed office, leading to speculations that it was "politically motivated."

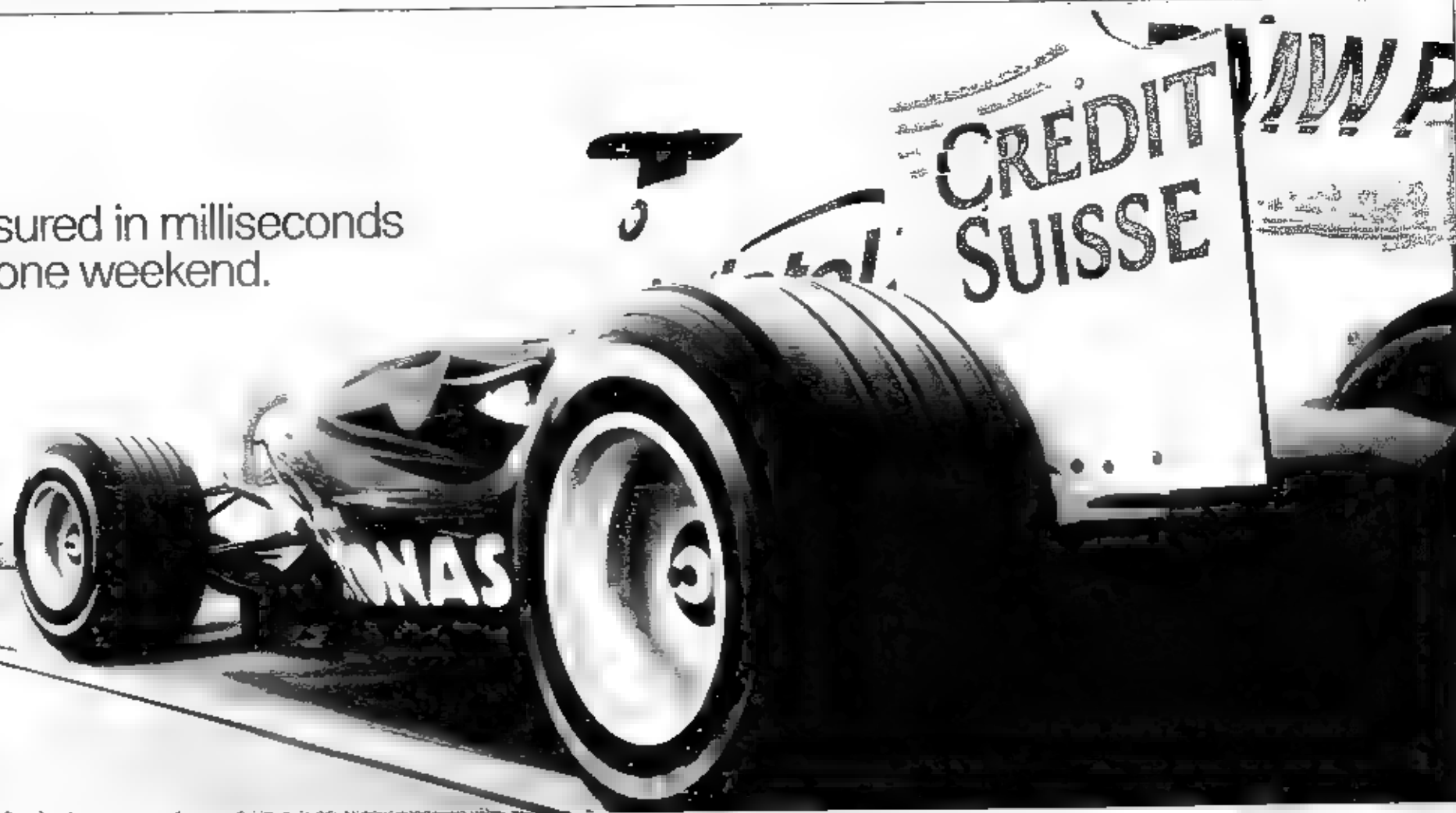
Udtohan, who resigned Sept. 19, was PLMun president on a temporary basis. There are no permanent or regular positions at the city-run school.

"My resignation was due to my acknowledgement of the authority of, respect for and courtesy to the mayor, and in full support of his reorganization efforts in the university," he explained.

Good faith

Udtohan said the appointments of all casual employees expired June 30 though he and his staff continued doing their duties and "serving without the necessary appointments in good faith."

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3 killed in shootout with police

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THREE MEN WERE KILLED IN A SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE THURSDAY evening after they allegedly held up a passenger jeepney along

Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. A fourth suspect escaped with the loot. None of the suspects was identified.

A passenger, a 36-year-old sales representative, called the attention of members of the District Police Intelligence and Operations Unit (DPIOU) who promptly responded to the incident.

Ana Fernandez of Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City, jumped off the jeepney breaking her arm in the process, and started calling for help.

Reports from the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) showed that the shootout happened at around 7:15 p.m., Thursday under the pedestrian overpass, in front of a lumber store on Commonwealth Ave. in Barangay Holy Spirit.

The victim was among the passengers of a jeepney plying the Cubao to Lagro route and driven by Edgar Nimo. Upon reaching Phileas, also on Commonwealth Ave., four men got in,

posing as passengers. Upon reaching Feris Road, the men pulled out fan knives and guns and announced the hold-up.

After divesting the passengers of their valuables, the suspects ordered Nimo to stop in front of the Dikman Preparatory School. As soon as the jeepney stopped, Fernandez jumped off and screamed for help as the suspects scampered away.

Fernandez caught the attention of the DPIOU team patrolling the area. But when the police ordered the suspects to give up, the men fired at the lawmen who fired back.

The three suspects died instantly from multiple gunshot wounds. One had an identification card bearing the name "Isaac Maputi." All three were between 30 and 35 years old and were heavily tattooed.

Scene of the Crime Office personnel recovered two .38 caliber revolvers, a fan knife, empty shells, identification cards allegedly and assorted keys from the suspects.

Little people take over Marikina government

By Kristine L. Alave

CHILDREN WILL TAKE OVER THE MARIKINA City Hall—but only for one day next week.

In celebration of Children's Month, Marikina City officials, from mayor to councilors, will yield their posts on Wednesday to schoolchildren.

Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando will be "replaced" by Jose Luansung Jr., a student of the Marikina Elementary School (MES). Matthew Bautista, also from the MES, will be vice-mayor.

Paolo Enriquez of the Kalumpang Elementary School (KES) will be the first district congressman, while Glea Mae Tobes from the Concepcion Elementary School (CES) will represent the second district.

The Marikina City Public Information Office said the children were selected from 17 public schools in the city.

The one-day "takeover" of city hall were meant to give children lessons in civic duties, children's rights, and policy making.

Participants, mostly Grade 4-5 students, are expected to meet city residents and hold a session on Wednesday.

The Marikina City government has scheduled other activities for children including a parade, a reading of the Children's Rights, and a photo exhibit.

Sen. Cayetano, please say it isn't so

THE SENATE IS REPORTEDLY POISED TO invite presidential spouse Mike Arroyo to the hearing on the National Broadband Network (NBN) project scandal.

I doubt if Mr. Arroyo will be there. If he does appear against his doctor's advice, it could prove to be dangerous to his health.

The probing questions would be too much for Mike Arroyo's heart to bear.

He may not be able to take the intense grilling that is characteristic of those sessions.

So please, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, have pity on a weak, sickly old man who has had a risky operation some months back.

Leave him alone!

But if the Senate badly needs Mr. Arroyo's testimony, why not invite his garrulous lawyer, Jesus Santos, in his place?

Santos will provide comic relief for those in the gallery, with his antics and makaza-style (poetic) Filipino.

And because Santos, who hardly speaks English, will be there, expect the "no-English-today" Sen. Lito Lapid to be there also.

Lapid might even upstage his colleagues by asking Santos questions in Filipino.

There's a malicious story making the rounds that a big businessman spent \$2 million so the Senate would stop its investigation or at least postpone it until the public loses interest in the stinking NBN deal.

I'm sure Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, the Blue Ribbon committee chair, would never accept a bribe. He's much too idealistic for that kind of thing.

Please senator, tell us it isn't so!

Although the "bribe" story is hardly credible, the public might lose interest in the scandal because of the long wait.

Between now and Oct. 25, when the Senate is scheduled to resume its hearing on the controversial project, it's a long, long time.

Filipinos being the forgetful sort, the story will lose steam and probably die a natural death like the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Administrator Roberto Lastimoso of the Metro Rail Transit Authority (MRT) complained to this writer that a commentator of a big radio station has been hitting him below the belt.

Lastimoso used to head the Land Transportation Office where several relatives of the commentator reportedly work.

The MRT head said the commentator asked him to promote his relatives, but he wouldn't give in because his kin were reportedly lazy and incompetent.

Another reason the radio commentator has been hitting him now is because the broadcaster was allegedly asking for a security plate for his vehicle.

Again, the official could not give in to the request because security plates are given only to intelligence officers.

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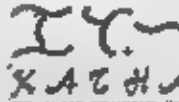
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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Suu Kyi considers
talks with general

RANGOON—BURMA'S DEMOCRACY icon Aung San Suu Kyi will consider positively a heavily conditioned offer to meet the junta leader, her party said Friday, as a US envoy headed to meet leaders of the isolated regime.

The ruling generals made the offers of dialogue as the United Nations readied to discuss the violent crackdown on the largest prodemocracy demonstrations in almost 20 years in Burma (Myanmar).

Opposition leader Suu Kyi, who has spent most of the past 18 years under house arrest, is a living symbol of the prodemocracy movement that last week brought up to 100,000 people onto the streets of Rangoon (Yangon).

While the top general, Than Shwe, is known to despise her, Burma's state media late Thursday said he was willing to see the Nobel peace prize winner if she ends her support for sanctions against the regime.

Suu Kyi would consider the offer "in a positive light," said Nyan Win, a spokesperson for her National League for Democracy (NLD). "It's up to Daw (Ms) Aung San Suu Kyi to decide," he said.

The regime extended the rare offer of talks as UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari prepared to brief the UN security council on his four-day trip this week to Burma, during which he met both the top general and the opposition leader.

The US chief of mission in Burma, Shari Villarosa, was on Friday due to pass on a "very clear message" in her talks with the generals to start "meaningful" dialogue with the opposition, said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

Villarosa—whose government has spearheaded global protests against Burma—was invited by the regime to its remote capital



THE FACE of a protester (top) is reflected over the portrait of Suu Kyi during a protest outside the Burma embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 4. AFP

Naypyidaw but had received no word on whom she would meet, US officials said.

Suu Kyi, whose NLD won 1990 elections by a landslide but was never allowed to rule, continues to symbolize the nation's democratic aspirations.

Last week, she was briefly allowed to greet some of the country's revered Buddhist monks before the junta came down hard on the protesters, killing at least 13 people and detaining more than 2,000, according to state media.

The rallies had begun with small-scale protests after a massive mid-August hike in fuel prices but swelled into the biggest threat to the hardline regime. AFP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Jones
 admits using
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Roach's favorite fighter also most exasperating

By Greg Beacham
 Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—THOUGH Freddie Roach is among the most respected trainers in boxing, he's not always in charge when he's working with Manny Pacquiao.

While other world champions obediently line up for a few hours of instruction at Roach's cramped Wild Card gym in Hollywood, Pacquiao has enough interests outside the ropes to keep several men occupied for several lifetimes.

Movies, music, politics, basketball, charity, family—they're all important to the Philippines' favorite son, and they vie for his attention whenever he isn't boxing.

"He does TV shows and movies and so forth," Roach said. "He's very busy when he's not fighting, and he's getting

pulled in a lot of directions.

"I always wait for that day—waiting for him to get distracted from his training, and when he's not going to be so disciplined. But that hasn't happened yet, and I don't think it will happen until his career is over."

Four years after Pacquiao jumped into the celebrity stratosphere in his native land with an upset victory over Marco Antonio Barrera, the WBC International's super featherweight titlist has a rematch with the famed Mexican champion at Las Vegas' Mandalay Bay on Saturday night.

Pacquiao might be the most talented fighter ever to step in Roach's ring, and maybe the most exasperating as well.

Though Pacquiao has a rare combination of virtues—power, speed, resilience and an utter fearlessness—he also seems fueled by a desire to be everything to every person in his native land.

"In the Philippines, I have a lot of things to do when I don't have fights," Pacquiao said. "I'm busy in my business there, and making movies. They call me a hero in the Philippines. I'm very humbled that they call me a national hero, because I have a big

responsibility, especially to my countrymen."

After a poor upbringing, Pacquiao speaks constantly of helping the less fortunate. He even tried to help by running for a congressional seat last year, though he lost handily.

Pacquiao also releases pop songs, films beer commercials, plays competitive billiards and owns a basketball team. Pacquiao even suited up for the team, particularly displeasing Roach, who has spent plenty of time in the Philippines in recent years, including six weeks in Cebu City this summer when Pacquiao abruptly decided to train at home.

Roach and promoter Bob Arum understand the cultural divide better than most Americans, but even they must roll with the punches when working with Pacquiao.

"Before he goes to training camp, it's tough to get ahold of him," Arum said. "He's busy with everything, doing a million things. But once the training camp starts, he's as dedicated, more dedicated than any fighter that Freddie's handled."

Thousands of fans will watch his fight with Barrera in Manila's gyms on Sunday morning, with thousands more crammed into cinemas.



MANNY Pacquiao: Too many distractions

Upbeat Warriors see gold at streak's end

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST SAW its shot at history pass agonizingly by, coach Dindo Pumaren immediately reminded his Warriors of their objective.

"Of course, it would've been nice if the streak continued, but what's more important is our goal, which is to win the championship," said Pumaren.

The Warriors' bid to set an all-time league record of 15 straight wins fell just a bucket short when the La Salle Green Archers pulled off a 64-63 heartbreaker in the UAAP Finals opener last Thursday.

GAME SUNDAY
 (Araneta Coliseum)
 2 p.m.—Individual Awards Rites
 3 p.m.—La Salle vs Univ. of the East (Game 2, Best-of-3 Finals)

"During the elimination round, the players wouldn't even mention [the word 'streak'], because that's not really our focus. We took it a game at a time, and it will be the same here in the Finals. We lost Game 1, but we'll be ready in the next game."

The Archers—who held on to Roco Maierhofer's split free throws with 14.1 seconds left for the marginal win—will

try to wrap it up tomorrow in Game 2 of the best-of-three title series.

"After the game, I told the boys that if we can win 14 straight, we can win two straight," said Pumaren. "The boys were still upbeat during practice (yesterday)."

Even his older brother, La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, knows that clashing against the aggrieved Warriors may be more dangerous.

"Knowing the UE Red Warriors and knowing Dindo, they're going to prepare for us; they're capable of bouncing back," Franz said. "Personally, I don't believe in momentum, especially in the champi-

onship. After this particular game, UE will be coming out firing in the next game. They will use this as a rallying point."

But Pumaren knows that his Warriors didn't play anywhere near their capability.

"The boys were tentative," he said. "Maybe because it was everyone's first time in the Finals."

"But even if we committed (a season-high) 31 turnovers, we only lost by one point. We played bad, but we could've still won. We had two chances in the end, they just didn't go in. Either team could have won, it was just the breaks of the game."



UE VOWS to do everything to prevent another La Salle celebration. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



CRUZ: Top of UAAP

Tigers' Cruz is MVP

By Jasmine W. Payo

HE LABORED IN Team B for two years—the same number of seasons it took him to rise to the top of the UAAP.

Jervy Cruz, University of Santo Tomas' prized center, is expected to be named the recipient of the UAAP Most Valuable Player award, a trophy that served as a consolation prize after he and his fellow Tigers fell short of the prize they coveted the most: the men's championship.

The 21-year-old Cruz led the league in rebounds with 15.4 boards and ranked third both in scoring at 16.7 points and blocks at 1.4 swats per game. He received a certificate from the league officially declaring him the MVP yesterday.

"I'm happy with

TIGERS' A24

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Santo Tomas' Cruz is UAAP most valuable player

From page A23



MICROVAN

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the award, but I would still rather win the championship," Cruz said in Filipino. "It's still better if the whole team is happy."

Showing a lethal inside-outside mix of shots, Cruz powered the Tigers to eight wins for a fourth place finish in the elimination round.

The Tigers knocked out the Far Eastern Tamaraws in the playoff for the last Final Four berth, before bowing to the Ateneo Blue Eagles in their knockout semifinal bout.

"I improved my shooting this year and my defensive game," he said. "I've also become more of a leader. When I was a rookie last year, I felt really shy."

A native of Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija, Cruz honed his raw skills under former UST coach Aric del Rosario, before new coach Pido Jarcio elevated him to Team A last season.

"I didn't know anyone from UST, I just walked in their practice," said Cruz, a third year commerce student.

Cruz also earned a spot in the Mythical Team along with University of the East's Mark Borboran, Ateneo's Chris Tiu and La Salle's JV Casio and Roco Maerhofer.

Far Eastern guard JR Cawaling, who normed 9.4 points and 2.9 assists, bagged the Rookie of the Year plum.

Cruz and the rest of the awardees will offi-

cially receive their citations during the Individual Awards Ceremonies at 2 p.m. tomorrow, right before Game 2 of the Finals series between University of the East and La Salle.

Borboran led the Warriors to a remarkable 14-0 elimination record with averages of 10.7 points and 5.3 rebounds.

Casio also paved the way for the Archers' Finals stint with 15 markers, 3.8 boards and 3.7 assists per game, while Maerhofer took care on the paint with 11.9 points and a third-best 8.6 rebounds.

Tiu, who carried the Eagles to third place with his clutch shooting, collected 12.4 points, 5.1 boards and 3.2 assists.

Tacuyan, Payla zero in on gold

By Dennis U. Erosa, *Inquirer Libre*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—NEW RING SENSATION ORLANDO Tacuyan Jr. blasted his way to the featherweight finals, even as Asian Gamer Violito Payla continued to show might in his division in the 2007 Smart National Open Boxing Championships Thursday night here.

The 5-foot-9 Tacuyan, thrust into the limelight after his masterful conquest of Doha Assan Games gold medalist Joan Tipon in the first round, dominated Virgil Basadre of host Misamis Oriental in their semifinal contest to move closer toward his first National Open gold medal.

"Tacuyan, 19, used his stinging jabs and smooth footwork to take the fight out of Basadre and score a referee stopped-contest compulsory count limit (RSC-CCL) victory right in the first round.

"My punches penetrated his defense," Tacuyan said in Filipino.

To win the gold, Tacuyan needs to hurdle Davao del Norte's Charly Suarez, who entered the finals

with a crushing RSC-outscored (first round, 57 seconds) victory over Argie Laput of Davao City.

Suarez, known for his rapid-fire punches, will carry the country's colors in the AJBA World Boxing Championships slated in Chicago, Illinois, from Oct. 18 to Nov. 3. The World Championships is a qualifier for the Beijing Olympics.

Tacuyan admitted that beating Suarez is a tall order.

"Charly's not only tough, but he's also a very wise fighter," said Tacuyan. "Let's see what happens because I feel that I'm in a very good shape."

Payla, who escaped the upset axe which his fellow RP team members Tipon and Harry



NAVY—Bago City's Albert Pabla (left) tags Baguio City's Marvin Somodio with a left hook in their semifinal bout. Pabla won on points. *SAFFY LERMA*

Tañamor, stamped his class over Joemel Bubar of Tausay, Negros Occidental, in another RSC-O to enter the flyweight finals against Rey Saludar.

"I want to rest and finish the bout early," said Payla, who is representing Philippine Army. "Before going to the World Championships, I want to win the gold here."

Saludar, also a member of the national training pool, beat Hopewell Galupo of Malaybalay, Bulodnon, via RSC-O (first round,

57 seconds)

Albert Pabla, who booted out Tañamor, lined himself for a gold medal showdown against Frederick de la Cruz of Davao City in the light flyweight category.

Pabla survived Marvin Somodio of Baguio City in the semifinals, 31-27, while De la Cruz beat Ariel Pama of Iligan City, 23-15, in the other encounter.

He will gun for the gold medal today against Davao City's Frederick dela Cruz, who won on points over Ariel Pama of Iligan, 23-15.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Chinese	Position
44 Pioneer St. cor Sheridan St., Mandaluyong City	Nam Chul Cho Korean	Senior Consultant
HUA FOR THE SKIN BEAUTY CORP. G4 Perla Mansion, 117 Don C. Palanca St., Brgy. San Lorenzo, Legaspi Village, Makati City	Su Jin Kim Korean	Consultant
PHILIPPINE STANDARD SHIPMANAGEMENT, INC. Suite 1008 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Tadashi Kanaoka Japanese	Manager Marine Section
PHILIPPINE STANDARD SHIPMANAGEMENT, INC. Suite 1008 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Yoshiyuki Fujimaru Japanese	Manager Technical Section
GULF AIR COMPANY 9F Ayala Life FCL Ctr., 6611 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Khaled Ahmed Bahraini	Airport Manager- Manila
ME NIHONGO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXCHANGE, INC. 3/F AAM Bldg., 397 Binalatang St., Olympia, Makati City	En Abe Japanese	Teacher
ARK BEAUTY CARE AND HEALTH AID CORPORATION Unit 2F-E Lydie Bldg., 39 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City	Jongjun Kim	Marketing Manager
KOREA, INC. Unit 401 Pacific Coast Plaza Condominium, Vilamar 1st St., Tambora, Parañaque City	Guy Sig Hwang Korean	Consultant
TOP AMUSEMENT TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22F Burgundy Corporate Tower 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Yi-Lin Chen Chinese	Computer Programmer- Division Executive
UPON TRADING LTD. 608 Messina Drive, Camella Homes, Pulang Lupa II, Las Piñas City	Jean-Peter Seidel German	Executive Manager
RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSCENTER, INC. 3-G Westgate Tower Bldg., Investment Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Eunyoung Son (w/o Jeong)	Assistant General Manager
TRG PHILIPPINES, INC. 8/F Harmon Bldg., J. Vargas St., Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City	Ritesh Bansal Paraswami Indian	Senior Manager Workforce Management Implementation and Capacity Planning
TRG PHILIPPINES, INC. 8/F Harmon Bldg., J. Vargas St., Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City	Keyur Vinod Trivedi Indian	Assistant Vice President-Workforce Management Implementation and Capacity Planning
SERAPH MANAGEMENT GROUP INC. MB Casa Catalina Bldg., 635 Gen. Malvar St., Malate,	Suk Gyoo Yeo Korean	Administrative Manager
PHILIPPINES, INC. 8/F One San Miguel Ave. cor Shaw Blvd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Wai Hung Yu British	Finance Director
GULF COMBINED BEARING PHILS. CORP. 1050 Benavidez St., Binondo, Manila	Nabil Sh M S Ahmed Kuwaiti	General Manager
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.-PHILIPPINE CUSTOMER CARE CENTER 12, 14 & 27/F PhilamLife Tower 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Sanjay Jaiteth Indian	Vice President Treasury and Security Services
REFAST - 888 TRADERS, INC. Rm. 208 STP Bldg., 381 Dasmarinas St., Binondo, Manila	Wanyi Shi Chinese	Sales Manager
DEL TATEL TECHNOLOGIES PHILS., INC. 272-A, De Mesa St., Little Baguio, San Juan City	Changming Fang Chinese	Project Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCOM Tower, Ayala Ave. cor Herrera, Makati City	Shijun Xue Chinese	Network Engineer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC Regional Director



National Transmission Corporation

October 3, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO

III

Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 2 x 90MVAR, 500kV Power Shunt Reactor and its Associated Equipment (Sp07 KSSP LI-0099)

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO) through its Annual Corporate Budget, intends to apply the sum of Philippine Pesos 357,380,000.00 for the Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 2 x 90MVAR, 500kV Power Shunt Reactor and its Associated Equipment (Sp07 KSSP LI-0099) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid.
2. TRANSCO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 2 x 90MVAR, 500kV Power Shunt Reactor and its Associated Equipment Delivery and Installation of the GOODS is required within Nine Hundred (900) calendar days from contract effectivity. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 1B of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations, and to Foreign bidders. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the bid's responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from TRANSCO and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address stated in Item 10 starting October 11, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos 20,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. TRANSCO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 23, 2007, 9:00 A.M. at C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the venue of the bid opening stated in Item 8 on or before 9:00 a.m. of November 6, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on November 6, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the BAC Secretariat at the following address.

Mr. R. D. Nabong
Manager Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. (632) 921-2308, 981-2212; 981-2213 Telefax No. (632) 981-2308
Email Address: rdnabong@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ATTY. NOEL Z. DE LEON
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

PDI Oct 5, 2007

Concepcion, Gesta stop foes in Vegas

By Salvem L. Lagumbay
Contributor

LAS VEGAS—FILIPINOS Bernabe Concepcion and Merced Gesta fashioned out stoppage victories Thursday in a Top Rank card at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino here.

The 20-year-old Concepcion, the WBC Youth super bantam champion, eked out a ninth-round technical knockout win over Salvador Garcia while Gesta defeated Carlos Vinan by

TKO in the fourth round.

Concepcion, who hails from Viga, Catanduanes, improved to 21 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw with 12 KOs while Gesta of Mandaue City climbed to 12-0-1 with 4 KOs.

Concepcion stopped the California-based Garcia 47 seconds into the ninth round.

"I had problems against my opponent in the beginning, but I soon found my rhythm," said Concepcion of the Aljoe Jaro Stable.

Mosman Cup football gets going at Merville

ABOUT 800 FOOTBALL PLAYERS 6 to 12 years old take to the pitch today when the first Mosman Cup kicks off at the Nomad Sports Club at the Merville Park Subdivision in Parañaque.

A total of 57 teams from various schools and football clubs, including four teams from a small school near Smokey Mountain in Tondo, will compete in the one-day knockout tournament organized by Mosman Communications and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation.

The Tondo team will play under the banner of the Philippine Christian Foundation.

The PCF is a non-stock, non-

profit non-government organization that runs education, nutrition, health, and livelihood programs for families in the Smokey Mountain area.

Jena Fetalino, president of Mosman Communications, said the event intends to perk up interest in the sport among young Filipinos and to develop their social behavior.

Some of the participating clubs and schools: Alabang United FC, Ateneo, Caritas Don Bosco School (Laguna), Don Bosco Mandaue, Don Bosco Tarlac, Futbol Funatics, Gawad Kalinga, Holistic Education Center, International School Manila, Man Chissea Red, Muntinlupa FC, Nomads Junior FC, Pearl Southridge School, Philippine Army FC, Saint Pedro Poveda College, Union FC, Victory Christian School, and Xavier School.

Elorde grandsons fight in 'Kontra Droga' tonight
ANOTHER EDITION OF "BOXING KONTRA DROGA" WILL BE HELD STARTING at 6 p.m. today at the Flash Grand ballroom of the Elorde Sports Center on Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Promoted by Johnny Elorde and supported by Pagcor, the fight card will feature two grandsons of the late Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

Super featherweight Bal Elorde, unbeaten in his first three pro fights, will battle Valenzuela City's Ronel Esperas while younger brother Juan Miguel Elorde will be pitted against Mandaluyong's Francisco Geroy at 119 lb.

The 10-round fight will be between Judifil Aclo, the RP No. 4 featherweight, and Elmer Saigumba at 131 lb.

RP Cuppers go up vs Japanese

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES, IN THE FAST LANE hopefully back into the Davis Cup World Group, battles perennial rival Japan when it begins its Asia-Oceania Group 1 tie on Feb. 8-10 next year.

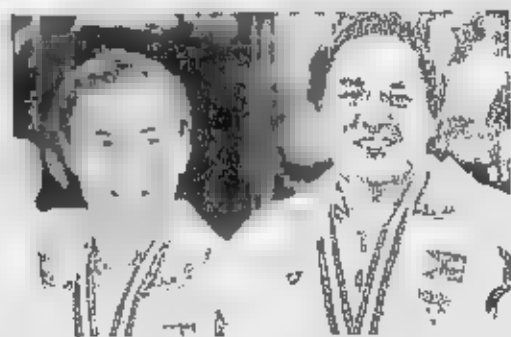
Fresh off their away victory over Kuwait for the Group championship, the RP netters are again pitted against the Japanese whom they have already fought 24 times since 1925.

Although the Filipinos trail the Japanese, 9-15, local tennis officials are upbeat on the country's chances, especially with a squad that includes Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino.

Based on the Davis Cup draw sheet posted on the Internet, the Philippines will advance against the winner of the Uzbekistan-India tie if it gets past Japan. Victory over either the Uzbeks or the Indians will elevate the Filipinos to the World Group in 2009.

The last time the country played in the World Group was in the early 1990s when the Philippines lost at home to Sweden.

"We have a strong chance because the Japanese players are already old, while we have fresh faces in our Fil-Ams and local players (PJ Tierno and Johnny Arcilla)," said former tennis boss and Philippine Olympic Committee board member Buddy Andrada.



RP'S 1-2 PUNCH: Fil-Ams Cecil Mamiit (left) and Eric Taino are raring to go.

The Philippines bowed to Japan, 5-0, in its last pairing in Yokkachi City, Japan, in 1996.

A year before that, Joseph Lizardo and Bobby Angelo turned back the Japanese, led by Shuzo Matsuo, 3-2, at the Philippine Columbian Association shell courts.

Mamiit, who ran a fever after winning his opening single against the Kuwaitis, is competing in Sacramento, California.

He and Taino are again expected to lead the RP charge, but they will first have to defend their Southeast Asian Games titles in Thailand this December.

So scores anew, shares world junior chess lead

Standings after Round 2:
2.0 points—IM Wesley So (RP), GM Wang Hao (China), GM Maxim Rodshtein (Israel), GM Gawain C.B. Jones (England), GM Arman Pashikran (Armenia), GM David Howell (England), IM Noraynan Gopal (India), IM Evgeny Romanov (Russia), GM Parimarjan Nagi (India), IM Goginani Rohit (India), IM Sasha Kaplan (Israel), Tigran Mamikonian (Armenia).

So, who turns 14 on Oct. 9, also beat Lithuania's Emilis Plekšas in the first round.

Among those with 2.0 points are top seed Grandmaster Wang Hao of China and No. 3 GM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel.

The 18-year-old Hao, who emerged co-champion with countryman GM Zhang Pengdang in the recent 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship in Mandaue City, took the scalp of IM Tornike Sanikadze of Georgia.

In the girls' championship, Filipino Woman Master Aces Salvador bounced back from a loss to German WFM Sarah Hoolt in Wednesday's first round to beat Ghazal Hakimfar of Iran. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Nomura Cup: Pinoys settle for 7th place

THE PHILIPPINES LEANED ON a two-over-par 74 from Jonei Ababa in another tough scoring day to finish in seventh place in the 23rd Nomura Cup golf championship at the Sunrise Golf and Country Club in Taiwan.

Ababa spearheaded the Philippines to a final-round 232 and a 924 total, a long way off the winning 882 of Australia but enough for non-playing captain Caloy Coscoluella to announce the trip as a success.

"I have never seen a group of players fight so hard," Coscoluella told the INQUIRER in a text message. "Exposing them to a tournament this big will give Philippine golf a better chance in the next

overseas events we will play in."

Ababa, the 22-year-old product of the National Caddies Open program, tied for 10th in individual play with a 302 tally, 10 shots off the winning 292 total of Andrew Dodd, who led the Aussies to their fifth straight title.

Mark Fernando labored hard in the face of swirling winds for a 79 like Toniatis Asistio to count as the next two RP scores. James Ryan Lam's 81 was discarded.

Australia, behind Dodd's 70, pulled away from Japan in the final round, winning the championship by 11 strokes. Thailand checked in third with an 894 tally and Korea finished fourth with an 896. *Musong R. Castillo*

Juvic in, 3 others out

SEOUL—JUVIC PAGUNSAN shot a one-over-par 72 and was left to carry the fight for the Philippines halfway through the Kolon-Hana Bank Korea Open at the Woo Jeong Hills Country Club here on Friday.

Counting his 71 in the first round, Pagunsan pooled 143 to barge into the money rounds, evading the fate of countrymen Angelo Que, Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña, who all fell by the wayside in the event led after 36 holes by Fijian star Vijay Singh.

Returning to South Korea after 12 years, Singh fired a 69 for a 135 total, three up on Koreans Kim Sang-ki, who also had a 69, and Kim Kyung-tae, who matched par.

American Anthony Kang carded a 68 and was in joint fourth with Kim Hyung-sung (72) at 139.

Pagunsan was eight shots off Singh but well inside the 148 cut-off mark.

Que fired a 75 and missed the cut by one like Rosales, who ballooned to a 79 after a first-round 70. Lascuña shot a 74 for 150.

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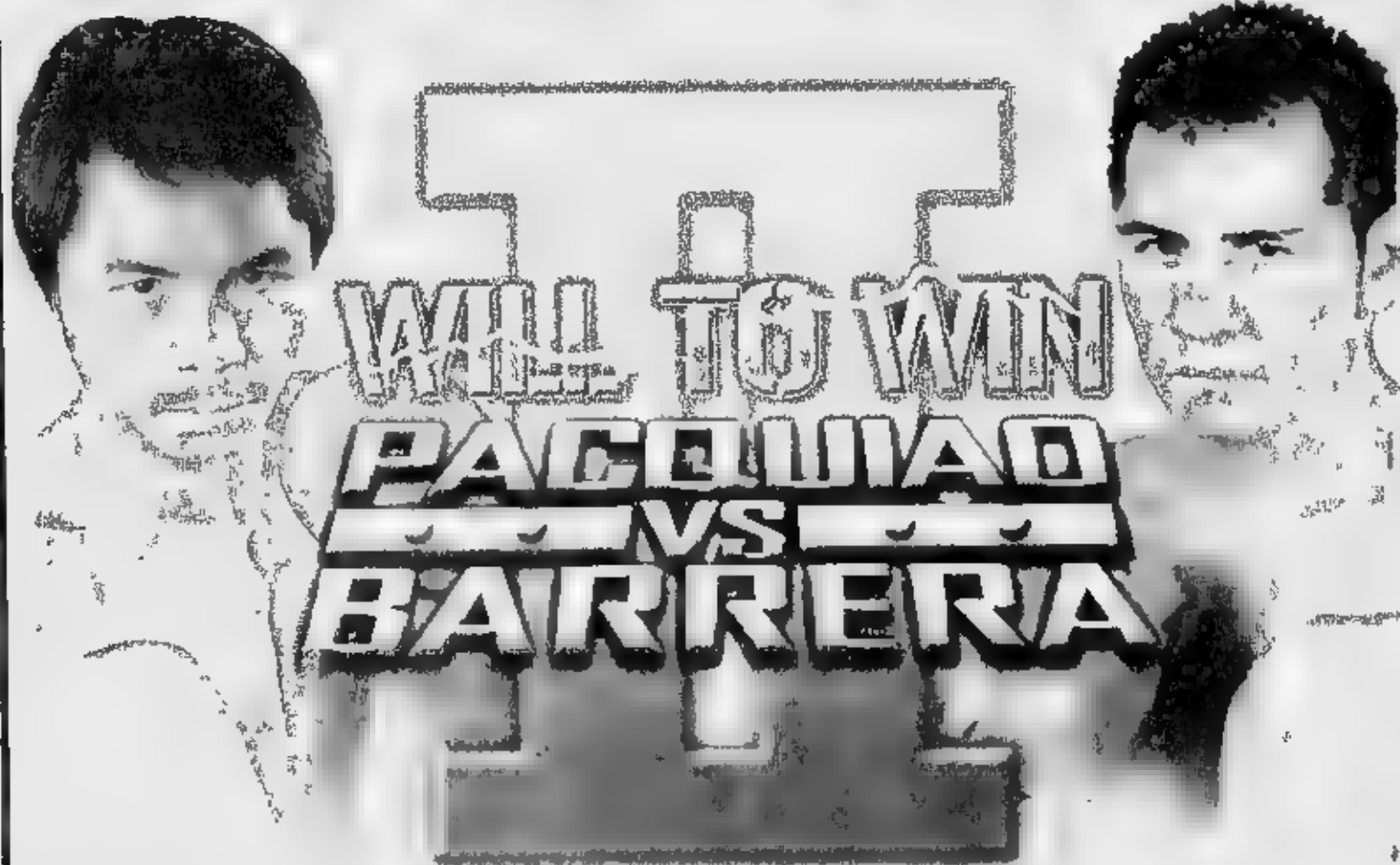
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KUNG AYAW MONG MAHULI SA LABAN NI PACMAN, TUTOK NA!!!



BEACH FOOTBALL

Two teams of beach booters fight intensely during the recent 1st Rudy Project Beach Football Invitational Tournament at the white-sand beaches of Playa Calatagan in Batangas. The tournament was the first of its kind in local shores and spurred strong interest among the sport's new converts. It was co-presented by Playa Calatagan and Smart Communications Inc., and sponsored by Rudy Project Philippines, Nestea, Axe, Ford, Rush Fitness Water, Nike, Royal Elastics and GNC. The sporting event is only one of many that have been held in Playa Calatagan, a pioneering real-estate project of Landco Pacific Corp. and reputedly the country's first tourism estate designed around a beach community.

Iligan Milo Marathon qualifier draws 5,000

MORE THAN 5,000 RUNNERS are expected to vie for top honors when Iligan hosts the 31st National Milo Marathon qualifying race this Sunday.

The top three men's and women's finishers in the 21K run will advance to the national finals of the country's longest-running foot race on Nov. 18 in Metro Manila.

The bulk of the field in Iligan, the City of Majestic Waterfalls, are competing in the 5K fun run and 3K kiddies races, according to local organizer Michael Neri.

The 21K champions in the men's and women's races will each pocket P10,000, while the second and third placers will get P6,000 and P4,000, respectively.

Cash prizes, medals and trophies are also at stake in the 5K and 3K races, as well as in the competitions among schools with the biggest number of finishers and in cheer-dancing.

Neri has invited Mayor Lawrence Cruz to fire the starting gun at the city plaza at 6 a.m. Other guests are Rep. Vicente Belmonte, Vice Mayor Henry Dy and city sports director Frederick Siao.

According to Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong, a total of P159,600 will be given away as cash prizes on Sunday.

National race organizer Rudy Biscocho is advising all participants to be at the starting area at 5 a.m. for check-in and briefing.

Yi dodges age questions

MILWAUKEE—YI JIANLIAN, MILWAUKEE'S TOP DRAFT PICK, declined to answer whether he was actually 19 or 22 years old on Thursday, again dodging a question that's hounded him since announcing he was coming to the NBA. Yi's birth certificate lists him as being born Oct. 27, 1987, but he's long been rumored older. AP

SPORTS

Raikkonen leads Shanghai practice

SHANGHAI, CHINA—KIMI RAKKONEN OF FERRARI LED FRIDAY'S practice session at the Chinese Grand Prix, with less than two tenths of a second separating the top four drivers. Defending champion Fernando Alonso of McLaren was second with Felipe Massa, Raikkonen's Ferrari teammate, third. AP



THE look on their faces says it all: (From left) Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte, Alex Rodriguez, Doug Mientkiewicz and Jorge Posada. AP

Indians claim Yankees scalp

CLEVELAND—CC SABATHIA SETTLED down after giving up a debated homer on his fifth pitch and the Indians returned to Major League Baseball's postseason after a six-year absence by beating the New York Yankees, 12-3, in their American League playoff opener.

Playoff newcomer Victor Martinez hit a two-run homer, rookie Asdrubal Cabrera had a solo shot off Chien-Ming Wang, and Travis Hafner and Ryan Garko also homered.

Kenny Lofton had four RBIs and Casey Blake added two as the Indians delighted a towel-waving crowd.

On Friday, the Yankees will turn to Andy Pettitte. Fausto Carmona, Cleveland's other 19-game winner, will oppose him.

Sabathia threw 113 pitches, allowing three runs and four hits—including two homers—in five innings.

Johnny Damon homered leading off the first and Robinson Cano homered in the fourth, but New York did little else.

New York has lost four straight playoff games, a streak rarely seen for the MLB's most decorated franchise which hasn't added to its collection of 26 World Series titles since 2000.

Damon led off the game with a shot to

right initially ruled foul by umpire Jim Wolf, who may have lost sight of the ball in the sun's glare.

Damon had already broken into his home-run trot when Wolf emphatically signaled foul. Damon threw up his hands in disbelief as manager Joe Torre jogged out to protest.

After an infield meeting, several of the umpires twirled their fingers to indicate homer as Damon, who had stayed on the field during the discussion, crossed home plate.

In Phoenix, Arizona moved to a 2-0 lead over Chicago in its National League division series with an 8-4 win Thursday. AP

Jones admits using dope before Sydney

NEW YORK—MARION JONES admitted to doping before the 2000 Olympics in a recent letter to family and friends, The Washington Post reported Thursday.

Jones, a triple gold medalist in Sydney, said she took "the clear" for two years, beginning in 1999, and that she got it from former coach Trevor Graham, the newspaper reported. Graham told her it was flaxseed oil.

"The clear" is a performance-enhancing drug linked to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (Balco), the lab at the center of a US government doping investigation.

Until now, Jones had denied she ever took any performance-enhancing drugs.

Jones is scheduled to appear in US Southern District Court on Fri-

day to plead guilty to charges in connection with her steroid use, a government law enforcement source told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, and would not provide specific details about the plea.

Jones said in her letter that she faced up to six months in jail and would be sentenced in three months, according to the newspaper.

"I want to apologize for all of this," the newspaper reported, quoting a person who received a copy of Jones' letter and read it to the paper. "I am sorry for disappointing you all in so many ways."

No one answered the door at Jones' Austin home Thursday evening. AP



JONES REUTERS

Walk for a cause set tomorrow

WITH A RECORD NUMBER OF WALKERS expected to pound the streets behind the SM Mall of Asia tomorrow for the upcoming Avon Walk Against Breast Cancer, the global beauty company has taken measures to ensure its participants' safety and enjoyment.

Traffic, security, and crowd management personnel from the Philippine National Police will be deployed for the event, which is expected to gather about 8,000 people this year.

SM Mall of Asia will also assign members of its security force to help guarantee the smooth flow of both walk participants and the commercial center's early morning visitors.

Organizers from Avon have contracted the

services of veteran race director Rudy Bischoff to manage the walk.

Traffic and parking within the commercial area may also undergo some temporary changes. Starting at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6, only select parking slots will be made available for mall-goers. On Sunday, the flow of traffic may also be slower along the walk route covering Sunset and Seaside avenues.

Registrations are still being accepted. To participate in any leg of the event, interested parties may go to any Avon branch in Metro Manila, Dagupan, Baguio, or Iloilo, call the Avon help desk 8642900 or 8642902, or contact Enne Legaspi of Stratworks at 7513805/06. In exchange for a donation of P125.00, registrants will also get the commemorative Avon Walk t-shirt.

Provincial champs square off

THE SHOWDOWN OF SABONG CHAMPIONS from different provinces continues in the SM Farms Open 6-stag derby today at the San Juan Coliseum. Fights begin at 3 p.m. So far, 154 participants have registered and with two more rounds left (Oct. 8 and 10) the total tally may reach to 260, said hosts Sam Mendoza, Boy Torres and Doc Jovy. Please call 7255369, 7256563 and 09178070667 for details.

SPORTSWATCH

Makati derby gets going

THE GOLD QUEST WTV 5-STAG DERBY GETS underway at the Makati Coliseum starting 3 p.m. A field of 40 entries will mix it up in 100 fights. The event precedes the transfer of derbies to the WTJ Sports Coliseum starting Dec. 10. The Parnaskong Salpukan 6-cock derby, with P3 million at stake and entry fee of P11,000, also starts on Dec. 10.

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WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

DRIVER'S STANDINGS		MANUFACTURER'S STANDINGS	
1st	Magus Gronholm (FORD) 90	1st	FORD 159
2nd	Sebastian Loeb (CITROEN) 80	2nd	CITROEN 141
3rd	Mikko Hirvonen (FORD) 69	3rd	SUBARU 60
4th	Daniel Sordo (CITROEN) 31	4th	STOART 55
5th	Petter Solberg (SUBARU) 31		SPORT FORD
6th	Herming Solberg (STOART) 28	5th	OMV KRONOS 35
7th	Chris Atkinson (SUBARU) 25		CITROEN
8th	Jari-Matti Latvala (STOART) 17	6th	MUNCHY'S FORD 6

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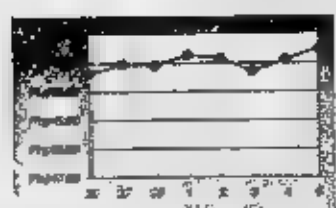
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September inflation inches up to 2.7%

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat

SHARE PRICES CLOSED flat yesterday as investors locked in profits ahead of key US economic data, dealers said.

Select blue chips remained well supported, offsetting losses in the broader market, with index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) hitting new highs they said.

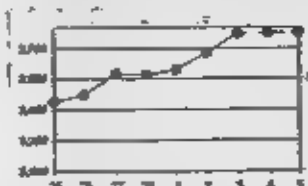
The composite index edged up 0.45 points at 3,775.91 after it saw-sawed between 3,759.04 and 3,814.62. Volume totaled 8.3 billion shares worth P6.8 billion.

There were 66 decliners and 45 gainers, while 56 stocks were flat. The broader all-share index slipped 0.87 point to 2,362.97.

"I think the market is a bit cautious ahead of the US jobs data for September due to be released later today (Friday)," said Jose Visitan of AB Capital Securities. **AFP**

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 44.75 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 5, 2007

BSP says rate remains within target

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL INFLATION RATE ROSE AT a faster pace of 2.7 percent in September from 2.4 percent in August, hitting its highest level in six months on higher food and fuel prices.

The increase in consumer prices last month was at the higher end of the inflation-targeting Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' forecast range of 2.1-2.7 percent. It brought the nine-

month inflation to 2.6 percent, still within the central bank's forecast of 2.6-3.1 percent for this year.

The slight uptick in inflation is expected as a result of supply con-

straints and as base effects start to dissipate," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"Inflation outlook remains favorable and risks broadly manageable," he added.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board slashed the benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points last Thursday on the back of this benign inflation outlook.

The National Statistics Office re-

SEPTEMBER/B4

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P250-M hotel to rise in Samal /B3

India firm gets a piece of RP biofuel action /B4

Trade with Taiwan shrank 6% to \$3.4B in 1st half /B8

Forex reserves near \$31-B mark

THE PHILIPPINES' FOREIGN EXCHANGE reserves rose to \$30.7 billion in end-September from \$30.5 billion the previous month due to the resurgence of foreign "hot money" inflow that allowed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to resume heavy purchases of dollars to temper the peso's sharp appreciation.

The latest gross international reserves (GIR) build-up surpassed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' year-end target of \$30 billion.

Portfolio investments from abroad, also called as hot money due to their volatile nature, flowed

back to the local stock and bond markets in September following the steeper-than-expected 50-basis-point cut by the US Federal Reserve on its benchmark interest rate.

"The inflows were partly offset, however, by debt service payments on maturing obligations of the national government," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of the economy and consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and

special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund.

"In terms of reserve adequacy, the current GIR level can cover 5.5 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income," Tetangco said.

This level was also equivalent to 5.2 times the country's short-term external debt based on original maturity and 3.1 times based on residual maturity. Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less plus

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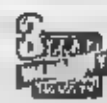
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IMS wants to buy stake of gov't, Smart in Etpi

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LISTED TECHNOLOGY ORIENTED firm ISM Communications Corp. is now in talks to acquire the combined 20-percent stake of mobile phone giant Smart Communications Inc. and the government in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Etpi).

Etpi is a local corporation en-

gaged in operating, installing and establishing commercial telecommunication, point-to-point domestic inter-island and international communications and other telecommunications services.

INQUIRER sources said ISM was negotiating to buy Smart's 9.8 percent in Etpi and the government's 10.2-percent interest in the

telecommunications firm.

Should ISM succeed in signing agreements with the two shareholders, ISM's stake in Etpi will increase to about 77 percent.

ISM sources said the company has sent a formal offer to Smart and the government. Sources said the funds for the proposed acquisition would come from a planned investment by

London-based investment fund Ashmore Investment Management Ltd. worth \$10 million or roughly P450 million.

ISM, formerly Ilogon-Suyoc Mines Inc., said the proposed investment would result in Ashmore raising its stake in ISM to 31.3 percent from 22 percent.

Ashmore is a major investment fund based in the United Kingdom managing some \$32 billion in funds.

ISM said its board approved the proposed "private placement" (or direct investment by an institution or individual as compared to a public offer) and likewise agreed to issue 16.5 billion ISM shares to Ashmore.

The issue price will be 2.74 centavos.

Etpi made a dramatic turnaround to profitability in 2006 after six years of losses.

SEC OKS Splash offering

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved a plan by personal care products firm Splash Corp. to raise as much as P2.5 billion from its public offer.

In documents filed with the SEC, Splash said it would offer up to 223.85 million new and existing shares at an offer price ranging from P8.70 to P11.18 each.

Of the total public offer, 188.85 million will consist of new shares and 35 million shares will comprise existing shares to be offered by Splash Holdings Inc., a 100-percent owned investment company of Splash Group founders Rolando Hortalez and his wife Rosalinda Ang-Hortalez.

After the offering, Splash Holdings' stake will be reduced to 70 percent.

The primary offer or sale of new shares will churn out gross proceeds of between P1.64 billion and P2.11 billion.

Splash has appointed First Metro Investment Corp. and SB Capital Investment Corp. to act as the joint lead underwriters.

Splash said the funds would be spent largely on the acquisition of local brands in the personal care industry as well as in related industries such as health and wellness brands.

Splash will allot P939 million to P1.2 billion for acquisitions, P392 million to P505 million for research and development, and P234.7 million to P301.94 million for brand building. Elizabeth S. Lacson

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 5, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
RANKS							
73	63	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63	63.5	61.5	61.5	1,534,800
74.6	504	Chunabank Corp.	70	71.5	70	70	2,065,700
23.5	18.5	Chunabank Corp.	725	730	725	730	2,920
0.63	0.36	Chunabank Corp.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
75.5	40	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	1,600,000
65.5	33	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	60	63	60	63	14,558,700
68	41	Philippine National Bank	52.5	53.5	52.5	53	535,800
39.57	15	Philippine Savings Bank	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	1,000
90	50	Rural Commercial Banking Corp.	28.5	29	27.5	28	3,579,900
64	47.52	Security Bank Corp.	78	78	77.5	77.5	801,000
		Union Bank of the Philippines	55.5	55.5	54	54	757,100
DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS							
2.2	0.6	Bank of the Philippine Islands	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	3,285,300
16.25	4.2	Cebu Pacific Air Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	2,848,300
8.8	4.6	First Philippine Holdings Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	3,000
1.6	0.4	First Philippine Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	250,000
4.2	2.9	First Philippine Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
1,840.00	1,560.00	Manila Financial Corp.	1,810.00	1,840.00	1,810.00	1,840.00	4,300
5	2.95	National Renaissance Corp. of the Phils	3.75	3.8	3.65	3.7	1,262,000
3.1	1.02	PC Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	70,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	870	870	820	820	4,890
2,350.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,335.00	2,330.00	2,335.00	600
1.2	1.3	Sun Life Financial Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	858,700
ELECTRICITY ENERGY POWERS WATER							
6.2	3.8	Abra Power Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	4,031,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.35	1,160,000
70.5	48	First Gen Corp.	68.5	68.5	67.5	68	1,051,900
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	86	86	83.5	84	175,500
16	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	15	15	14.25	14.25	3,651,100
105.45	18.18	Manila Electric Co.	87	87	83.5	84.5	1,434,100
7.8	4.1	PKDC Energy Development Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.6	7.7	51,985,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	2,038,000
14.75	6.6	Philippine Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.5	10,000
1.9	0.99	Phonix Petroleum Energy Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	515,300
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO							
6.3	3.2	Ayala Mkt. Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	524,000
2.95	1.66	Alfanzon Tong International Inc.	1.86	2.1	1.86	2.08	12,033,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	26.5	25	26.5	20,100
61	35.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53	52.5	52.5	412,100
9.1	4.95	Pancake House Inc.	8.7	9.1	8.6	9.1	78,000
0.98	0.44	RPM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1,380,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	123,000
80	58	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	62	61.5	62	32,800
88	56.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	271,100
4.7	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	2,027,200
0.25	0.25	Universal Robina Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	380,700
CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES SERVICES							
6	1.69	Universal Robina Corp.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	429,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	10	11	10	10.5	2,089,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	1,933,000
2	0.7	Seamless Agri. Chemical Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.42	1.3	1.38	31,174,000
CHEMICALS							
6.3	3.75	Universal Robina Corp.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	2,444,000
1.34	0.97	Universal Robina Corp.	1	1	0.99	1	280,000
FINISHED INDUSTRIES							
HOLDING FIRMS							
3.9	2.05	A. Soriano Corp.	3.45	3.35	3.25	3.25	9,000
0.17	0.026	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.115	49,120,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.86	0.8	0.82	17,220,000
3.6	1.5	ATM Holdings Inc. "A"	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	20,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Holdings Inc. "A"	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	14,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Holdings Inc. "B"	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.014	8,000,000
9.7	5.3	Abacus Equity Ventures Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	1,260,000
0.021	0.0075	Abacus Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.018	320,400,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	30,175,000
1.38	0.52	Allons Consol. Res. and Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	200,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.44	2.44	2.4	2.4	2,550,000
15	4.5	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	3,000
815	377.08	Ayala Corp.	600	600	565	575	457,930
5.8	1.28	Benros Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.35	4.35	5,418,000
10.25	3.85	BNP Holdings Inc.	9	9	9	9	176,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	38,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	30,000
8	2.55	First Philippine Holdings Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	4,073,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	5,060
14.5	6.6	JB Summit Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11	11.5	2,280,900
5.9	0.61	Jollibee Holdings Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.78	65,000
0.8	0.235	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	100,000
0.95	0.195	Mediway Holdings Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	40,000
11.5	1.12	Minich Investments Corp.	6.3	7.7	6.1	7.5	27,229,000
0.27	0.01	Practica Inc. "A"	0.25	0.27	0.235	0.27	1,924,610,000
0.75	0.18	Prima Orion Philippines Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	8,170,000
2.1	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	30,000
452.5	237.84	Seafront Resources Corp.	410	412.5	382.5	410	270,360
2.1	1.08	Seamless Agri. Chemical Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	3,000
0.73	0.125	Seamless Agri. Chemical Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.43	8,550,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	280,000
23	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	350,000
23	0.1	TCL Steel Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	4,500
1.88	0.1	Waters Resources Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	7,050,000
PROPERTY							
2.34	0.98	A. Soriano Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	297,000
6.8	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.7	221,000
1.06	0.32	Aranda Properties Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	130,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.5	17	17.25	16,974,700
1	1	Belle Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.26	1.28	2,031,000
7	2.75	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	240,000
0.86	0.32	Crown Equities Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.67	0.67	2,750,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	24,100,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.78	51,000,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gloze Resources and Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.29	16,438,000
1.48	0.01	First Philippine Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.22	1.24	24,350,000
2.44	1.26	First Philippine Holdings Corp.	1.88	1.88	1.8	1.82	820,000
0.49	0.1	Ginebra Land Inc. "A"	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.31	150,000
0.5	0.1	Ginebra Land Inc. "B"	0.34	0.36	0.35	0.36	21,000
3.3	2.18	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,000
2.9	1	Kepco Philippines Properties Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	13,680,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.81	0.85	0.81	0.84	147,219,000
4.4	1.75	Megawatt Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	295,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.25	310,900
0.7	0.125	Phil Estates Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	15,430,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.61	0.62	15,430,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.75	19.5	18.75	19.5	6,595,300
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.45	1,646,000
13.5	6.84	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	5,085,500
3.25	1.18	Shangri Properties Inc.	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.4	2,808,000
1.34	0.46	Sunwest Home Developers Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.68	0.68	1,870,000
0.49	0.085	Univest Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.29	27,700,000
7.4	3.55	Yeta Land and Developments Inc.	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	43,745,700
MEDIA							
30.3	17	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	971,000
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.1	971,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
2.2	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.48	1.52	9,727,000
1,620.00	1,050.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,615.00	1,620.00	1,595.00	1,620.00	106,550
3,105.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,105.00	3,105.00	3,080.00	3,100.00	127,100
7.9	4.5	Prepaid Telecom Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	11,215,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
0.39	0.17	Beuvest Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.2	0.205	0.21	14,450,300
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	12,000
11.5	2	IPVS Corp.	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.1	2,390,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	127,800,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	18.5	18.5	17	17	39,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	154,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.205	0.225	235,700,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	123,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb Corp Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.06	469,300,000
5.9	3	Transpacific Broadcast Group Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.55	2.6	1,464,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES							
2.14	1.14	Abra Power Corp.	1.42	1.45	1.42	1.45	286,300
6.8	2.5	Abra Power Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	169,900
40	17.25	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	39	37.5	37.5	762,600
2.04	1.04	London Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.32	1.8	1.32	2,200
HOTELS & RESORTS							
4.25	6	Lensure and Resorts World Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	434,000
0.98	0.3	Planiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.66	610,000
1.7	0.43	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	162,000
EDUCATION							
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES							
6	1.94	Macro Asia Corp.	5.3	5.3	5	5.1	1,319,300
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.75	101,700
30	11.25	Paysa Inc.	12.75	12.75	11.25	11.25	3,016,300
MINING							
0.017	0.003	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	166,800,000
7.6	3.6	Aper Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.7	110,000
7.7	3.85	Aper Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	110,000
21.25	7.7	Aper Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	16	15.5	15.75	3,215,000
5	1.8	Aper Mining and Dev't Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	50,000
14.25	5.8	Aper Mining and Dev't Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	50,000
5	1.8	Aper Mining and Dev't Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	50,000
0.31	0.1	Geographic Resources Philippines Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	88,350,000
0.37	0.18	Lampiran Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.25	0.25	0.24		

P250-M hotel to rise in Samal

Complex to meet need for new marina

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DAVAO CITY—A LOCAL COMPANY IS building a P250-million hotel-resort-marina complex in Samal Island to lure sailing tourists from other parts of the country as well as those from as far as Australia and New Zealand.

Ronald L. Bangayan, president of the Holiday Garden Island Development Corp., said in an interview that the project dubbed "Holiday Ocean View Samal" was geared to address the long-standing demand for a world-class marina in the Davao Gulf.

"Mindanao is the closest and safest place for sea-faring leisure travelers (from Australia and New Zealand) to go to but they could not come here because there is no infrastructure for their sailboats and yachts," Bangayan said.

He added that the Holiday group—which also operates fleets of taxi cabs and buses as well as a spa in Cebu—started on the marina complex concept in the late 1990s and broke ground in 2006.

Also, Bangayan said the development of the nine-hectare, P50-million property included an exclusive subdivision, where lot owners have free access to the leisure complex.

"Many of those who have bought lots are wealthy balikbayans," he said.

The marina and the subdivision are expected to be online by 2008 while the 150-room hotel would be operational in 2009.

The tourism complex falls in place with efforts of the local government of the Island Garden City of Samal, which is pushing for the development of the island to cater to different tourist market segments.

Cynthia B. Rodriguez, president of the Davao Travel Agencies Association, said the local government and the private

sector were cooperating on having mid-range and budget accommodations in Samal Island, to add to the high-end facilities like that of the Pearl Farm Beach Resort.

"The goal is to attract not only the big spenders but also the budget travelers and even the backpackers," Rodriguez said.

According to city officials, the 28,000-hectare Samal Island has 118 kilometers of shoreline, some portions of which have fine white sandy beaches.

Also, there are attractions for the nature and ecotourism enthusiasts such as the island's highest peak—Mt. Puting Bato—mountain biking and hiking trails, dive spots, caves with subterranean water systems and a bat sanctuary that houses the world's largest colony of fruit bats.

Niche coco products hold export levels

A NUMBER OF NICHE COCONUT PRODUCTS managed to earn export revenues of at least \$100,000 each in May despite low yield from typhoon-damaged plantations, official data from the Philippine Coconut Authority showed.

The top earner among nontraditional, coconut-based products was glycerin, a major ingredient in home-made and commercial beauty products.

Posting \$1.05 million in earnings, the volume of glycerin exports for the month reached 1,474 metric tons or 120.7 percent higher year-on-year.

Japan bought more than half of the shipments at 846 MT while the rest went to China, New Zealand, Denmark, Australia and seven other countries.

Second on the list was coconut milk powder, with receipts reaching \$472,464 from the sale of 184 MT, which was 43.5 percent lower than the previous year.

Milk powder shipments went to 10 countries including Italy, France, Japan, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

Next was nata de coco with \$412,224 for 482 MT of cargoes, a decrease of 14.2 percent by volume.

Japan remained the biggest buyer, accounting for 86 percent of the shipments, while the rest went to the United States, China and 15 other markets.

Some 148 MT of virgin coconut oil were sold for \$387,880 in May, a jump of 1,761.8 percent by volume.

Deliveries were made to buyers in nine countries including the US, Canada and Australia.

On the other hand, export volume of toilet and bath soap dropped 40 percent in May to 167 MT, with earnings pegged at \$364,066.

Cargoes went to Indonesia, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and 18 other countries.

For \$290,426, 259 MT of liquid coconut milk or 22.4 percent more volume were sent to the US, Japan, Israel, Belgium, The Netherlands and five other countries.

Coconut shampoo earned \$171,346 from 72 MT, or 11.6 percent higher than previous year's volume.

Buyers were from Ecuador, Ireland, Mongolia, United Arab Emirates and 19 other countries.

Alkanomide sold 98 MT for \$134,544, dipping in volume by 16.2 percent.

Supplies were sent to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Vietnam, New Zealand and Pakistan.

Macapuno or coconut sport earned \$107,147 from 58 MT of shipments, which was 18.9 percent lower than in the same month last year.

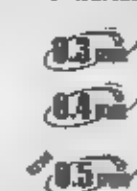
Exports went to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Canada and 14 other countries. Ronnel W. Domingo

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Philex in joint venture for Zambo exploration

US call center eyes expansion in Luzon

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NASDAQ-LISTED ICT GROUP Inc. is looking for new sites in provinces near Metro Manila as it continues to expand its Philippine operations following the launch of two new call centers in Mandaluyong City and Marikina.

Karen Batungbacal, ICT Group president for Asia Pacific, said in an interview that the Pennsylvania-based company wanted to pursue opportunities in the provinces, aside from taking advantage of lower rent for office space and other operating costs.

She said ICT Group CEO Jack Magee, who visited the country in time for the inauguration of the two centers last Wednesday, had personally checked out possible locations.

Batungbacal said that, while expansion outside Metro Manila was being worked on, the particulars had yet to be settled.

On Wednesday, ICT Group launched a call center in Marikina's Riverbanks Center and another at the Annex@Shaw, near the corner of Edsa.

Batungbacal said the two call centers represent a combined capacity of at least 2,000 seats, bringing the firm's total capacity to some 5,000 seats.

During the inauguration rites held at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong, company vice president John Langford said ICT Group's success was in part due to its development of agents and frontline management teams.

"(This thrust) creates career paths for our employees," he said.

PUBLICLY LISTED PHILEX Gold Inc. yesterday reported its wholly owned subsidiary Philex Gold Philippines, Inc. had entered in an earn-in agreement with PDEPI Inc. for its Zamboanga property.

PDEPI is a 40-percent-owned subsidiary of Freeport McMoran Exploration Copper & Gold Inc., one of the world's largest copper and gold producers.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Philex said the agreement covers part of its Sibutad project tenements of some 6,954 hectares in Zamboanga del Norte.

Under the terms of the agreement, PDEPI has the right to earn an initial interest of 40 percent in the Sibutad property by

allotting some \$2 million for expenditures over a period of three years.

According to the disclosure, PDEPI stands to earn an additional 20-percent interest in the property if it spends another \$2 million on or before the fifth year of the agreement.

The Sibutad property consists of areas covered by an exploration permit application on 5,846 hectares, a mine production sharing agreement on 622 hectares, and an application for production sharing agreement on 486 hectares.

Philex said that its Sibutad tenements lie in a "highly mineralized region in the Zamboanga peninsula in Western Mindanao."

This region reportedly holds

"copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc and chromite prospects, a volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposit and several epithermal gold and copper prospects in advanced exploration stage."

PDEPI has been exploring in the Philippines for the past 10 years.

Its parent firm, Freeport, had recently acquired Phelps Dodge Corp., which has over a century of experience in the exploration and mining industry.

Meanwhile, Philex Gold has embarked on an aggressive exploration program to take advantage of rising metal prices.

Philex Mining Corp. owns an 81-percent stake in Philex Gold, a Canadian-registered firm.

Amy R. Remo

India firm gets a piece of RP biofuel action

Local agri sector looks forward to fresh inflows, technology

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE has inked an agreement with an India-based energy company to help develop the local biofuel industry.

According to the DA, Praj Industries Ltd. will help propagate new farming technologies and invest in the planting of sweet sorghum and other crops to be used as feedstock for ethanol and biodiesel production.

In a memorandum of agreement, the DA and Praj have agreed to team up "for feedstock development and setting up bio-fuel production plants" in the Philippines.

Praj, a publicly listed firm in the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange in India, develops technologies and equipment for biofuels production.

"By March 2008, Praj will be producing bioethanol fuel in Ormoc," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said. "Praj will propagate sweet sorghum technology to our farmers ... [and] develop bioethanol fuel from corn, sugarcane, sorghum and cassava."

Under the agreement, the DA, through the Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corp., will:

- Identify land for feedstock development;
- Encourage and assist farmers in cultivating sweet sorghum or jatropha; and,

• Help in attracting investments for commercial scale bio-fuel feedstock production and the construction of biodiesel and ethanol plants.

According to the MOA, Praj "will also provide the design, engineering and supply the bio-fuel production plants to potential investors in the bio-fuel sector."

Yap said he expects the ever-growing global demand for crop-based alternative fuels to energize Philippine farms and reduce the country's dependence on imported energy sources.

The DA is now in the process of identifying private sector investments more than 400,000 hectares of land to plant crops for biofuel feedstock.

The lands would be planted to cassava, oil palm, coconut, sugarcane and jatropha, and other crops used as feedstock.

The DA said investors are planning to set up plants in the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern and Central Mindanao, and the Davao region either through straight purchases, lease arrangements, contract growing or joint ventures.

Farmers stand to earn more in these agreements through profit sharing, guaranteed income packages or straight purchases of harvested crops, Yap said.

Farmers can also benefit from new planting technologies that will help boost production, he added.

NFA undertakes massive infra buildup

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY has started to implement a post harvest facility infrastructure buildup program to reduce the country's post-harvest losses in rice and corn.

NFA Administrator Jessup P. Navarro said an evaluation of existing post-harvest facilities in the country enabled the agency to identify the infrastructure support that had to be installed under the so-called national grains highway plan.

The needed facilities include 55 units of mechanical dryers and 14 units of truck scales. The plan also involves the retrofitting of nine units of mechanical dryers with 18 units of biomass furnace.

Some P2 billion was initially earmarked for the program.

Navarro also said the agency had recently turned over a corn dryer in Wao, Lanao del Sur, while corn centers are set to be established each in Regions 2 and 7.

The multipurpose corn cen-

ters can also dry cassava and palay.

Navarro said corn centers were equipped with state-of-the-art components, such as corn-on-cobs drying bins, corn sheller, shelled corn dryer, biomass heating system, mechanical conveyor, cobs bin and scale.

Prior to the national grains highway project, Navarro said that in the last 10 years, the NFA had given farmer cooperatives nearly P497 million under the Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF). The CDIF is a P0.25-a-kilo incentive used for the post harvest facility buildup.

This is on top of the grains support price, and another P0.25 a kilo incentive for drying and delivery, which the NFA grants to farmer organizations and cooperatives selling their produce to the agency.

Aside from the CDIF, the NFA has also granted to qualified organizations farm level grains centers (FLGCs)

through soft loans.

FLGCs, which costs P1.7 million to P2.4 million each, contain ancillary facilities such as mechanical and solar grain dryers and rice mills.

A total of 38 FLGCs, with a storage capacity of 3,000 to 10,000 bags have been granted by the NFA to beneficiary cooperatives.

These groups pay back by selling their produce to the NFA, Navarro said.

Also, the NFA allows farmers to use the agency's drying facilities for a minimal fee.

Navarro explained that the use of mechanical grain dryers especially during main harvest was important in reducing post harvest losses and assuring high quality grains, which can command better prices in the market.

The NFA has a total of 451 units of operational mechanical grain dryers nationwide, with an effective drying capacity of 5,330 cavans an hour.

Amy R. Remo

Lingerie company spearheads effort to stop spread of breast cancer

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WACOAL PHILIPPINES KNOWS MORE than a thing or two about breasts.

Being in the lingerie business, it is an expert at cup shapes, sizes and bra structures and designs to protect as well as enhance women's breasts.

Its special interest in breasts, however, goes beyond the superficial.

Since 2005, Wacoal in the Philippines has been providing free seminars to raise the public's awareness on breast cancer, as it believes that women all over the world should be healthy as well as beautiful.

"Women's breasts are the foundation of our existence," explains Ann Christine Palisoc, chief operating officer of Philippine Wacoal Corp. "It is just fitting that we develop expertise not only on products, but also gain an understanding of different aspects that will affect the total being of a woman."

Through Wacoal's "Keep Abreast" free seminars, women learn that early detection is the best way to fight breast cancer, which is one of the top causes of death among women.

Flyers on breast cancer are also distributed in department stores and malls where Wacoal products are sold.

At the same time, Wacoal donates regularly to its partner, the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc., to help in its quest for breast cancer prevention, research and cure.

Dr. Jessup P. Navarro
Santos, Breast Cancer Surgeon of East Avenue Medical Center and Head of Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc. (PFBCI) welcomes the attendees for Keep Abreast seminar.



In 2005, it conducted four seminars with 702 attendees. Last year, it conducted three seminars with 413 attendees.

But this year, Wacoal intends to bring its campaign up a notch by conducting more seminars. It will also produce a video that can be distributed to various organizations interested in learning about self breast examination.

Palisoc says the video will discuss the challenges experienced by breast cancer patients and survivors; how breast cancer develops as well as risk factors and treatments.

Wacoal aims to distribute the Keep Abreast video to various societies and universities to hasten the discussion on breast cancer.

"In the end, our objective is to minimize the incidents of death due to breast cancer," Palisoc says. "We are promoting the fact that early detection and early treatment saves lives."

She adds Wacoal is motivated to bankroll the program by the growing number of people expressing interest in helping the breast cancer awareness campaign. Many individuals and corporations

alike have started their own campaigns after going to one of Wacoal's seminars.

Aside from the "Keep Abreast" seminars, the Philippines also takes part in Wacoal's global breast care "pink ribbon" program, under which a portion of the sales of "pink ribbon" lingerie go to breast cancer prevention programs.

The pink ribbon campaign traces its roots to Wacoal Corp. in Japan, which has been producing a line of underwear and swimwear for women who have gone through mastectomies.

The lingerie, under the Remmama

Project line, is sold at cost to the more than 160,000 women who have lost their breasts to cancer-related surgeries.

As the incidence of breast cancer grew, Wacoal decided to take an active role in promoting early detection of breast cancer. It started in 2000 in Japan. Soon, other subsidiaries, including Wacoal in the Philippines, followed suit.

Palisoc says the Keep Abreast campaign has gone a long way in fostering closer relationships among Wacoal employees.

As they contribute their time to the seminars, they realize they gain more in terms of fulfillment in knowing they have helped others.

"[The campaign] raises the awareness of employees as to how they can help other people," Palisoc says. "Even the department stores have joined us in this endeavor—they have allowed us to sell pink ribbon items in the stores and the sales proceeds are not subject to the usual store margin. Finally, our customers have been generous in supporting our cause."

Promoting the cause close to Wacoal's heart has also helped pushed awareness of the brand as a company to be trusted and supported, according to Palisoc.

"We believe that meeting the expectations of the stakeholders through our business activities establishes mutual trust and heightens our social trustworthiness as a company. This is the core value that the Wacoal group of companies aims to realize," she says.

CURRENCIES

October 5, 2007	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.707164	1.000000	45.0410
Japan	Yen	0.008072	0.008586	0.3867
United Kingdom	Pound	1.441482	2.038400	91.8115
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091146	0.128889	5.8053
Switzerland	Franc	0.602354	0.851789	38.3654
Canada	Dollar	0.709149	1.002808	45.1675
Singapore	Dollar	0.477781	0.675630	30.4311
Australia	Dollar	0.628199	0.888336	40.0115
Bahrain	Dinar	1.676761	2.653928	119.5356
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188950	0.267194	12.0347
Brunei	Dollar	0.476172	0.673355	30.3288
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000110	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022379	0.031648	1.4254
JAE	Dirham	0.192572	0.272316	12.2654
EJ	Euro	1.000000	1.414100	63.6925
Korea	Won	0.000772	0.001092	0.0492
China	Yuan	0.094103	0.133071	5.9937
Denmark	Kroner	0.134194	0.189784	8.5472
India	Ruppee	0.017934	0.025361	1.1423
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207470	0.293384	13.2143
New Zealand	Dollar	0.533708	0.754717	33.9932
	Kroner	0.108748	0.153780	6.9264
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021692	0.030675	1.3816

Sources: Reuters' Reuters closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 4, 2007.
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rates as of Oct. 4, 2007.

Forex reserves near \$31-B mark

From page B1
principal payments on medium- and long-term loans falling due within the next 12 months.

This developed as the global financial volatility triggered by the US subprime mortgage crisis waned last month as the US Fed's monetary easing made assets in emerging markets like the Philippines more attractive

to foreign investors.

Sub-prime mortgages are loans made to borrowers with imperfect or limited credit histories and little equity. The ripples spread across the globe as western banks took big hits from structured financial products with underlying assets invested in these sub-prime mortgages.

The country's strong foreign

reserve build-up since the start of the year has been supported by remittances from overseas Filipino workers, foreign direct investment and portfolio investments. These inflows have allowed the BSP to become a heavy buyer of dollars at the Philippine Dealing System.

Building up its GIR is also one way of curbing the peso's appreci-

ation against the dollar in view of a bearish trend for the greenback.

Meanwhile, the net international reserves, including revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, stood at \$30.7 billion from the end-August level of \$30.5 billion. NIR refers to the difference between the GIR and the total short-term liabilities. Doris C. Dumlao

September inflation inches up to 2.7%

From page B1
ported that the inflation rate in Metro Manila rose to 2.8 percent in September from 2.6 percent in August while the rate in the provinces picked up to 2.5 percent from 2.2 percent.

Tetangco attributed the higher September inflation to the uptick in the prices of major food items like rice, fruits and vegetables,

fish and dairy products.

"The two rounds of increases in the prices of gasoline products also contributed to the (higher) inflation in transportation and communication services during the month, with the latter also posting higher inflation compared to August," he said.

But the BSP chief noted that core inflation, a measure of

price pressures that excludes certain food and energy items, slowed down to 2.7 percent from 2.9 percent in August.

Based on key indicators, Tetangco said pressures on inflation were moderating.

"Money supply growth has slowed down, agriculture output is expected to expand moderately, recent wage hikes are

not seen to fuel additional inflation and the firm peso continues to temper import costs," he said.

He added that some risks to future inflation remained but assured that the BSP would continue to closely monitor these to ensure that price stability would be maintained and the country's growth momentum sustained.



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Please submit your resumé with 2x2 picture @ 11/F BDO Plaza #8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City and look for Ms. Vangie Ramos. You may also email your resumé at vangieramos@yahoo.com / rhamos@lshaciendas.com.ph. For other details, contact 8128490, 8125059 and 830-0575.

Republic of the Philippines
**PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
Capitol, Oroquieta City
Tel. No. 088-531-1593

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid for

46 units Medical Stainless Steel Bed with Double Cranks and Mattress (size: 2050 cm. x 900 cm x 500) Equipped with rails I.V. pole, rack, Arc Head and Food Frame rail shade plate. Back-part upward 75 degrees, leg part 40 Degrees equipped w/ side rails stainless steel I.V. pole, etc

Total ABC - P8 843,259.25

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected

Bidding documents shall be available only to qualified bidders as determined by the BAC at the BAC Room, Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Annex Building, Oroquieta City, starting 19 October 2007

Issuance of bidding documents requires the payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) payable to the Provincial Treasurer, Province of Misamis Occidental.

Receipt and opening of bids shall be done at the BAC Room, Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Annex Building, Oroquieta City on October 29, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures prescribed under The Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

BAC Activities

- | BAC Activities | Schedule |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Pre Bid Conference | 17 October 2007, 10:00 a.m. |
| 2. Distribution of Bid Documents | 19-28 October 2007 |
| 3. Receipt and Opening of Bids | 29 October 2007, 1:00 p.m. |

For details, please contact Mr. Cesarito N.J. Chiong, BAC Chairman, thru telephone # 088-531-1593

The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental - BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, declare failure of bidding at anytime prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties

(Sgd.) **CEZARITO N.J. CHIONG**
Chairman

Posted at: Premises of the Procuring Entity
Date of Posting: October 5, 2007 - October 12, 2007
PGO - PGSO - MOPH Bulletin Board
Posted in Phil-Gaps: October 5, 2007 - October 12, 2007
Posted in Newspaper of Nationwide Circulation:
October 6, 2007 - October 13, 2007
(PDI - October 6, 2007)



Republic of the Philippines
ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE
Sta. Maria, 2705 Ilocos Sur

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the ILOCOS SUR POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Commissioner Balduino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- A holder of an earned doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the College;
- Must not be more than 65 years old at the time of assumption into office;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academic; and
- Morally upright and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- NBI, Sandiganbayan and Previous Employer's Clearances;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer; and
- Certificate of no pending cases issued by the Court where he/she resides.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- The applicant's proposed Vision and Thrust for the College within a four-year period;
- Result of the Neuro-Psychiatric Examination accomplished by a competent physician of a government accredited Test Center;
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician; and
- Under Oath CSC Form 212.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit seven (7) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before **December 10, 2007** to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner B. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 3rd DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 835-1880; Telefax No. (02) 835-1883

MS. ASUNCION G. ALTIZ
Acting Board Secretary
Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College
Sta. Maria, 2705 Ilocos Sur
Telefax No. (077) 732-5512



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SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE BID BULLETIN NO. 001-07

LRT LINE 1 NORTH EXTENSION PROJECT

TO ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS:

Pursuant to Section 23.11 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184, the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid relative to the LRT Line 1 North Extension Project published in Maaya, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Manila Standard on October 01, 2007, is hereby amended, particularly Paragraph No. 2 thereof, which shall read as follows:

"Prospective Bidders should possess a Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License applicable to the respective type and cost of the said contracts. Prospective Bidders for each Package should have completed a **similar single contract** with a value of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of said Package and should meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated on a pass/fail basis."

For information, guidance and compliance.

Issued this 4th day of October 2007.

Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - October 6, 2007)

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experience.
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travel allowance.
Qualified applicants may call or text
the mobile # (0920) 523-61-34

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **ESPRITRENEUR, INC.**, with business address at Unit 5, RCS Townhouse, Buencamino St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City has been granted a **LICENSE** to operate as a **PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY** under PRPA Operator's License No. M-03-00-300. Find not just a JOB but a CAREER with us.

(PDI - Oct. 6, 2007)

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

OSCAR "TOTI" GARCIA BALAGOT

peacefully joined his Creator
on September 28, 2007 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife Lourdes Suba Balagot,
Children

Mnyl and Bimbi Gungoso,
Anna and Joey San Gabriel,
Louie,

Stella and Alan Diaz
Cynthia and Paul Mussion,
Butch;

Grandchildren

Carissa, Angelica, Michael, Paolo, Christina, Catherine, Min Michelle;

Sisters and their spouses:

Fucila (†) and Francisco (†) Osorio;
Luz and Salvador (†) Ramos; Flora (†) and Renato Sison;
Edita Balagot; Angela (†) and Mariano Aguilar Jr.

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

Funeral services were held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
On the condolences for the bereaved family may be submitted to
www.scott-mississauga.ca

ENG'R. RECARDO "Ding" P. BERBANO

Graduated from University of Mapua
with a degree in Civil & Sanitary Engineering

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 3, 2007

He is survived by his mother Angelica P. Berbano, loving wife Cynthia Trinidad Berbano, children Cynreca Berbano, Maria Lourdes Berbano Butler and spouse Al Butler, Dr. Reccyn T. Berbano and spouse Rachel Canseco-Berbero, grandchildren Garry Benigno, Isabella Butler, Michael, Christopher & Victoria Nicole Berbano, sisters Lucia Berbano Tamesis, Victoria Berbano, Teresita Belmarch Socorro Berbano; brothers Fernando (†), Benjamin with their spouses, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces & nephews.

His remains lie in state at the Sanatorium, 739 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after
the 9:00 a.m. Mass on October 7, 2007.

"Come to Me all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Col. Stefani Cantoria Domingo PC (Ret.)

Peacefully joined the Lord
on October 1, 2007 at the age of 79

He is survived by his children Baby, Butch, Gaspar, Raul and Emmanuel, and his grandchildren, brother and sisters. He will be dearly missed. He had done well, and till the very end was a good and faithful servant and child of the Lord.

We love you, Papa

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel,
Guadalupe, Makati City

Interment will be on Sunday, October 7, 2007 at
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after
the 9:00 a.m. mass at Loyola Memorial Chapel,
Guadalupe, Makati City

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Will new smoking pill work?

By Tessa R. Salazar

NICOTINE IS AN ADDICTIVE substance. Once you puff a cigarette, the increased level of nicotine in the brain releases dopamine, which gives the smoker the rush, the feeling of elation.

During the recent launch of Pfizer's new-generation quit-smoking drug Champix, experts explained to INQUIRER Science/Health the similarity of nicotine's dopamine-inducing effects on the brain with that of the prohibited substance cocaine. "With the absence of nicotine, dopamine levels become low. You then feel agitated. You get depressed, weak (nicotine level gets low). And when you (combine) that with increased levels of adrenaline, you become agitated, irritable, and lose concentration."

Apparently, smokers are addicted to the habit to achieve the "high" and avoid the depressing "lows"—a vicious cycle, Champix manufacturers say, that requires the extra "push" of their



drug if smokers intend to quit the habit

Reducing craving

Medical experts during the launch explained that instead of nicotine binding to brain receptors, the active substance in Champix does, thereby reducing the smoker's craving for nicotine. This reduces not only the symptoms of withdrawal but also the satisfaction level of smoking.

In trials, 44 percent of the group

treated with Champix had stopped smoking after being treated for 12 weeks, as opposed to 11 percent of smokers taking the placebo. Over the same duration, it was also shown to be more effective than Zyban (bupropion), the other main antismoking drug treatment.

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance president Dr. Encarnita Limpin said she would like to try it on her patients to see for herself if it really works.

"I am banking on the studies that were shown to me that this is effective. If in my clinical practice it isn't effective, then I'll stop using it."

She added that for a smoking cessation doctor in the Philippines whose only option has been nicotine patches or gums, the new drug would be welcome. It certainly adds an option to help patients stop smoking, she added.

Not magic cure

Smoking cessation educator John R

Polito, editor of www.whyquit.com based in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, told the INQUIRER that Varenicline (Champix's generic name) is an amazing chemical but not necessarily a magic cure.

"Users of Champix need to know that once they come off it, and that if they take just one puff, nicotine will again create a dopamine explosion in their brains," Polito said.

He added that quitting smoking involves knowing the adversary, not just taking one substance to block out another.

"Varenicline is the first nicotine designer drug, and puts out up to 60 percent of the dopamine that nicotine would if sitting on the exact same receptor site, and it does so 24 hours a day. There is a back-end readjustment when coming off varenicline, but an adjustment substantially less than coming off of nicotine," Polito explained.

Limpin added: "I don't think Champix will really solve the problem all on its own. You also need to couple it with other modalities like counseling. Without counseling and just this medicine, it will not be as effective."

Pop stars' life expectancies

A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health tries to give credence to the notion that pop stars do tend to live fast and die younger than their contemporaries. I say "tries" because a couple of the methods they used in their analysis raise questions about the data's accuracy.

Ultimately, though, the researchers' explanation behind the lower life expectancies of pop stars—a term they chose to describe artists who perform a number in a variety of musical genres—bears noting, and it's worth mentioning to all aspiring pop stars out there.

British researchers led by Mark Bellis at the Liverpool John Moores University argued that the "live fast, die young" phrase was often applied to pop stars but never validated. So, Bellis et al. looked at nearly 1,100 musical artists born either in the United Kingdom, Canada or the United States and who achieved success between 1956 and 1999.

A successful artist, the researchers decided, was one who had a Top 40 album or single in any of the following genres: rock, punk, rap, R&B, electronica or New Age. Thus, Bellis et al.'s data are based on artists as diverse as Elvis and Eminem.

Information

Personal information on these musical artists was then collected by Bellis et al. from a variety of sources, including an official listing of the "All-Time Top 1000 Albums (as of 2000)" encyclopedias, authorized biographies and several websites. While using informa-

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

tion gathered from Billboard.com about hit songs, musical categories, and artist information seems logical, some of the other websites used by the researchers aren't considered as credible.

In particular, Bellis et al. admit to using information from Wikipedia, which anyone can edit, and Answers.com, which generally seems to use Wikipedia as its own source. Hopefully any inaccuracies the researchers found in these websites were corrected by referencing more reputable sources.

Life expectancies

To compare the life expectancies of the artists, Bellis et al. recorded each one's birthdays, and dates of death for those who had passed away on or before Dec. 31, 2005. Age at time of death and cause of death were also recorded for each artist in the latter group. The artists' survival rates were then compared to the expected population survival rates in the United States and United Kingdom.

In some cases, this meant looking at how many people the artist's age were alive 35 years after the artist's first big hit. Not all 1,100 pop stars are on that timeline. However, Eminem, for example, is considered successful as of 1999 and the study period closed in 2005.

With this information available, Bellis et al. compared the life expectancies of their selected pop stars against the life expectancies for the United Kingdom and the United States. The Canadian musicians appear to have been lumped in with the Americans (which so far seems to have generated little reaction), and it's not clear what effect that has on the analysis.

The findings: Pop stars have in general shorter life expectancies overall, which the researchers attribute to factors such as drug and alcohol abuse. However, the difference in the survival rates of European pop stars and Europeans their age is a mere five percent.

On the other hand, regardless of a Canadian's actual life expectancy, Bellis et al. found that a North American pop star's life expectancy is lower than that of his European counterpart. The combined survival rate of North American pop stars compared to that of the American population, however, diverges by approximately 20 percent.

Lack of health insurance

Bellis et al. attribute the lower life expectancy to a lack of health insurance, which is likely to be an American problem. If you've seen Michael Moore's "Sicko," you know Canadians have a socialized health care system, as do many countries in Europe.

So despite problems with their methodology, Bellis et al. do raise a valid point: A pop star lives to enjoy his success longer if he makes sure to always take care of his health.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

ARE YOU A STUDENT OF A PUBLIC OR private science or science-oriented high school? Or does your school have a special science or math curriculum? If your math average last school year was at least 86 percent, why don't you try out for the Philippine Math Olympiad (PMO)?

The Math Society of the Philippines (in cooperation with the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology) is holding the Tenth PMO this November. The PMO aims to improve math education in the country by awakening greater interest in and appreciation of math among students and teachers.

Most of all, the PMO aims to identify our top problem solvers, and ultimately select participants to the International Math Olympiad (IMO), the most prestigious fest of its kind in the world. PMO winners are automatically qualified to join the training team for the 2008 IMO to be held in Spain. Our official representatives to the IMO will be selected from this training pool.

Stages of the competition

The PMO will be carried out in two stages. The Area Stage, to be held on Nov. 24, will be a written exam among high school students in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region. This stage consists of a written exam, and participants can go to various testing sites in their respective regions. The top three qualifiers for each area will be awarded certificates and medals.

The top three qualifiers per area, and the students who get the 10 highest scores among all the participants, will proceed to the National Stage, to be held on Jan. 11 to 13, 2008 in Metro Manila. This stage consists of written and oral exams. The grand winners will receive trophies and cash prizes.

Sample questions

Here are sample questions, with answers, to whet your appetite for the PMO:

• I am a two-digit multiple of eleven. I am

EUREKA!

Queen N. Lee-Chua

not odd. My digits, when multiplied, make a cube and a square out of me. What number am I?

Answer: 88

• If the height of a right-circular cylinder is reduced to half and its diameter is doubled, how is the volume changed?

Answer: The volume becomes twice as great.

• In how many ways can a straight line divide a square into two congruent parts?

Answer: The line can do so in an infinite number of ways.

• What is the probability of having four boys and four girls in a family of eight children?

Answer: 70/256

• Matt ate a total of 100 raisins over a five-day period. Each day, he ate six more raisins than on the previous day. How many did he eat the first day?

Answer: Matt ate eight raisins on the first day.

• How many divisions are necessary to determine if 283 is prime?

Answer: six divisions

For more questions, visit the PMO website: www.math.admu.edu.ph/pmo. Each school may send a maximum of 10 contestants. Application forms can be downloaded from the site. Submit the applications to your regional coordinator not later than Nov. 9. For further inquiries, e-mail the PMO committee at pmo@math.admu.ph.

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

'Makabayang Duktur' helping save lives

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

HEDELIZA IS A 44-YEAR-OLD mother living in one of the slums of Metro Manila. She was already severely anemic because of on-and-off bleeding from her benign but big tumor in her uterus. She had consulted the out-patient department of a government hospital, and was scheduled for immediate surgery, but she needed the money to buy surgical materials and medicines required by the surgery.

Almost desperate knowing that she could die anytime if the bleeding became profuse and uncontrollable, Herdeliza prayed hard to God to bring her someone who could help her. It so happened that Doctors Willie and Liza Ong were shooting an episode of their TV show "Makabayang Duktur" in the area, and Herdeliza's neighbor told the doctor-couple of the sad plight of Herdeliza.

New lease in life

Willie and Liza came to Herdeliza's house and agreed to shoulder all her medical expenses for her myoma surgery. The operation was promptly done at the Ospital ng Maynila and a week later, Herdeliza went home grateful for the new lease in life she was given.

"When I saw Herdeliza, instantly I knew this was the template that God wanted me to use for MD ('Makabayang Duktur')," says Doc Willie who has already helped countless of poor families in need of medical care in the two seasons of 'Makabayang Duktur.' The show airs on RPN-9 during Fridays, from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m., with Boy Abunda as its pro bono consultant.

It shows the doctor-couple roaming the slums of Metro Manila looking for people with healthcare needs they can help. They do their medical examination and evaluation right there and then, make a diagnosis and give the necessary medicines which they usually have with them. If the sick patients need further diagnostic tests, they make the necessary referral and in most cases, they spend for these laboratory examinations.

Willie and Liza have been digging deep into their own pockets sustaining "Makabayang Duktur," the TV show and Makabayang Duktur, the foundation.

Seeing all the poor patients that the foundation has helped, kind-hearted Samaritans have made donations and Willie and Liza have come up with a scheme similar to that of Gawad Kalinga.

Financial aid

For a P20k donation, one can save a life. Donations go to the funding of a life-saving or life-extending surgery. The major criterion is that the patient must have a 90 percent chance of survival. The financial aid is not intended for serious cancers that have spread, very old patients, high-risk surgeries, surgeries that will not lead to a productive life of the patient, and expensive surgeries such as those on the brain or heart.

"Donating P20k may mean a little sacrifice for some, but it means the whole world for our poor brothers and sisters," Doc Liza says.

Doctors Willie and Liza assure their donors that their donation to MD will really be utilized up to the last centavo for the patient's medical problems. "The patients will forever be grateful to you. Hundred percent (of the donation) goes to saving the patient's life," Willie says. "It's the cheapest way to save a life," Liza adds.

What's in it for the donors? Of course, they will be properly acknowledged in Willie's and Liza's TV show and their names will be etched in the "Wall of Miracles" at the Co Tec Tai Medical Museum. But much more than these acknowledgments of one's generosity are the health benefits one gets from helping others.

It does sound fairly intuitive and

obvious that helping others would make one feel good but studies have actually shown that knowing that one's assistance caused a meaningful impact on other people's lives not only increases one's overall sense of well-being, but also alleviates all kinds of chronic pain, and even reduces depression.

Acts of kindness

In a study involving 3,617 respondents conducted by Prof. Peggy Thoits of the Vanderbilt University, those who volunteered and helped other people had higher levels of happiness, life satisfaction, self-esteem, sense of control over life, physical health, and lesser depression.

In another study, Prof. Paul Arnsperg of Boston College also showed that volunteer work and philanthropy reduced chronic pain and disability, and these health benefits persisted months after the volunteer work was done. The researchers remarked that the participants felt "making a connection" and having "a sense of purpose" when volunteering to assist.

It's good to realize that as one helps make other people's life better, his act of kindness actually makes his own health and life better. For those who wish to help Doctors Willie and Liza save lives, you may call them at 831-9842, 0915-742-3462 or e-mail them at willie@ongd.net.

KIDS QUIZ By Emman Cena

KIDS, THE RAINY DAYS ARE STILL FAR from over. But there's no stopping us from playing and getting some clean fun. At home, we could do pillow fights and of course our dear childhood toys are just around the corner.

Wait. How much do you know about your toys? Here's our weekly quiz, this time on toys and their creators. Check your knowledge by matching the name of the toy on the left with its inventor on the right.

Let's play kiddos!

TOYS

1. Frisbee
2. Lego
3. Kaleidoscope
4. Play-Doh
5. Jigsaw puzzles
6. Atari
7. Koosh Ball
8. Skateboard
9. Hacky Sack
10. Matchbox

INVENTOR/S

- a) Noah W. McVicker and Joseph S. McVicker
- b) Nolan Bushnell
- c) John Stabberger and Mike Marshall
- d) Bill and Mark Richards
- e) Walter Frederick Morrison and Warren Franscioni
- f) John Spilsbury
- g) Jack Odell
- h) Scott Stillinger
- i) Gottfried Christian

Score: 1-4 Good, 5-7 Very Good, 8-10 Excellent

© 2007 by Emman Cena

Doing something about 'discomfort'

By Charles E. Buben

WITH ALL THE HEALTH issues that people have to deal with in life, sometimes it's the minor ones that can cause the most problems.

One of such concerns is constipation. This condition occurs when people have a hard time emptying their bowels—a process which can sometimes be painful—as well as having a bloated feeling in the stomach, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

"Although constipation may not seem like a very serious symptom, the physical ailments that it could lead to are no laughing matter," said noted gastroenterologist Benjamin Gerardo Perez.

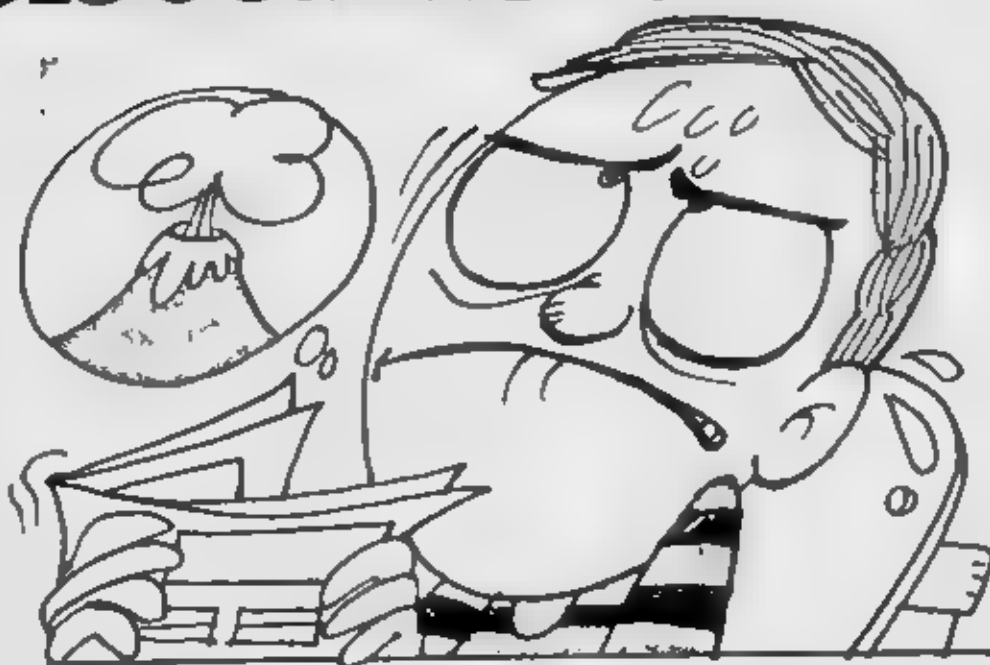
The doctor mentioned about being irritated most of the time, suffering constant headache, having hemorrhoids (from the "strain" from not being able to move the stool) and the feeling of still needing to defecate even after just doing one.

Handle properly

However, Perez assured that constipation can be just another one of life's little displeasures as long as it is handled properly.

He said the main thing in treating constipation is to be sure the individual is eating enough fiber—examples are fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains—and drinking enough fluids.

"These will help the stool move through the intestines by increasing its bulk as well as making it softer. Increasing how much you exercise will also help," Perez suggested.



He also added that while constipation isn't usually a serious problem, one should consult a doctor if laxative is needed.

"Taking contact laxatives (such as Dulcolax) could also stimulate the bowel muscles while allowing water to accumulate in the intestines. The effect is to both soften the stool and to make it pass through more quickly," Perez explained.

Differences

However, it should be remembered that what constitutes constipation for one person may be normal for someone else.

"It's hard to define normal bowel movement since everyone is different. But constipation may be the problem if certain conditions take place over a prolonged period like straining during bowel movement,

hard stools and having three or less bowel movements in a week.

Perez noted that the most affected groups include the elderly people, pregnant women (because of the pressure on their bowels, lack of exercise, and hormonal changes) and even travelers who are more likely to change their diet, suffer from dehydration, and have long periods of rest.

"Stressed out individuals are also prime candidates for constipation because of their hectic lifestyles," the doctor said.

In fact a recent Philippine Omnibus Survey says that at least one in five Filipinos aged 15 to 64 suffer from constipation with females slightly suffering more than males (59 percent versus 41 percent).

Hydrotrim body fat reduction program benefits 500 Filipinas

A TOTAL OF 500 FILIPINAS OF VARIOUS ages recently discovered a new way of trimming down their weight and body fat levels through a body fat reduction trial spearheaded by Hydrotrim, the newest slimming beverage to enter the country.

The program, which is the first of its kind to be embarked by Hydrotrim in the country, involved 12 weeks of closely monitored tests wherein the women drank a glass of the product 30 minutes before every meal, every day. Sample products were provided for free for the duration of the trials.

Undergo screening

All the participants had to undergo screening, wherein readings of their body mass index were taken, their waistlines and hips measured to establish a reference point before the trials start. The women chosen as participants were overweight but not yet obese and most displayed unsightly *bilbil* or love handles around their mid-section.

Aside from weekly measurements and monitoring, the participants were also made to undergo a body fat analysis every four weeks of the program.

The program utilized a body fat analyzer machine, which measured the BMI levels and metabolic rates of all the participants. Visceral fat and body fat levels were also measured to determine hidden fats and adipose tissue that normally accumulates around the waist or hip areas of women. The tests revealed a big improvement in their weight and fat levels as early as the fourth week.

The weight of the women went down to as much as 30 pounds and most lost as much as 20 centimeters of their *bilbil* during the program. Nearly all the participants also reported less craving for carbohydrates and sweets, which are known contributors to the accumulation of fats.

Orange flavored

Hydrotrim, recently launched as the

country's first orange-flavored slimming beverage, has been touted as the newest and most effective way to slim down and shed body fats without side effects.

Using a proprietary formulation known as Super Citrimax made from the natural extract of *Garcinia Cambogia* and containing 70 percent hydroxytyrosic acid, Hydrotrim aids the body in burning fat, speeding up metabolism and providing added energy.

Florida Enriquez, a 36-year-old single mother and resident of Calocan City, had always been fighting fat during her early years and was initially skeptical about the product. She had been trying out different fitness fads and products for years, all in the attempt to lessen her weight and attain a more sculpted figure.

"You might say I am already an expert when it comes to trying out different slimming products in the market—from diet pills to imported slimming teas. None of them worked and all had side effects that induced drowsiness, LBM, vomiting and irregular heartbeat," Enriquez said.

Diet regime

"When I included Hydrotrim as part of my diet regime, I began to feel more energetic. I also noticed that I began to lose weight gradually," Enriquez revealed.

"My craving for rice during meals diminished and I was encouraged to exercise a bit more frequently as I noticed my waistline becoming smaller and smaller. Plus I never experienced any of the side effects that I experienced in other products," she added.

Hydrotrim is Mega Lifesciences' first aggressive foray into the multibillion-peso health and fitness industry. The company, known as one of the industry leaders of nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals and pharmaceuticals in the country and operating in more than 22 countries, has been at the forefront of developing high-quality, safe and effective healthcare for human wellness.

How technology and expertise save more lives

CARLOS (NOT HIS REAL name) knows he owes his life to divine intervention—and some help from highly trained doctors equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Although apparently healthy, he had obliged his wife's request that he undergo a comprehensive executive checkup at St. Luke's Medical Center. Carlos underwent a procedure called Computerized Tomography (CT) Calcium Scoring using the advanced 64-slice CT Scanner. His calcium score indicated a high probability of coronary artery disease, the narrowing of arteries of the heart that could lead to a potentially fatal heart attack.

Coronary angiogram

To confirm this finding, St. Luke's interventional cardiologist Dr. Nick Cruz performed a coronary angiogram in which contrast dye was injected into Carlos's coronary arteries to make them visible on X-ray. The angiogram showed narrowing of vital arteries supplying Carlos's heart.

Further evaluation of Carlos's narrowed coronary arteries and affected muscles of the heart was obtained through a cutting-edge nuclear imaging procedure using the country's only combined Gamma Camera/CT SPECT machine. The imaging procedure showed that a significant portion of Carlos's heart was not receiving enough blood and was not adequately functioning due to poor oxygen supply.

Dr. Cruz immediately performed coronary angioplasty with stenting. A thin tube (catheter) with an inflatable balloon at the tip was inserted via Carlos's groin and into his diseased artery. Once the catheter reached the narrowed portion of Carlos's artery, the balloon was inflated and a stent (a short metal mesh tube) was deployed to help prevent the artery from narrowing again. The procedure lasted less than an hour and was a complete technical success. Subsequent imaging through state-of-the-art intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) showed all three of Carlos's stents were properly deployed.

Carlos is just one of an increasing number of patients who have benefited from early detection and prompt, targeted treatment made possible through cutting-edge medical technology. Dramatically improved patient care with the help of technology is now a global phenomenon. Continuous technological advances and increasing medical knowledge promise even more benefits for patients.

Helping save more lives

The experience of St. Luke's Heart Institute demonstrates in concrete terms how technology in the hands of trained specialists helps save more lives. From 2005 to June 2007, the Institute achieved a near-perfect 99 percent procedural/technical success rate in both open-heart surgery and coronary angioplasty and stenting. These figures compare favorably with the 98 percent success rate of coronary

CAREPLUS

Angelo B. Palmones



angioplasty with stenting performed under the US National Medicare program.

How the Heart Institute compiles such patient information and is able to utilize them is another important way technology—in this case, information technology or IT—improves the quality of patient care. IT is the most important tool in improving medical knowledge, health policy and delivery of optimal medical services. Before the advent of IT, lack of organized information gathering and storage systems prevented accurate assessment of quality of care and the actual impact on treatment outcomes of the different cardiovascular treatment strategies and technologies.

Info system

The Heart Institute maintains the country's first and only Cardiovascular Disease Information System (CVDIS), which collects clinical and procedure-specific information from all patient encounters at the Institute. As of August 2007, the system has compiled 134,806 procedural records of 66,740 patients, with the goal of creating a unique population-specific electronic book of cardiovascular disease and its natural history. The system is designed to generate standardized procedural reports and store such data in the form of patient-specific electronic files in cardiovascular disease IT experts call this data mining.

The brainchild of Dr. Fabio Enrique Posas, CVDIS is a unique, modular, comprehensive, secure and strictly confidential system that utilizes internationally accepted definitions for all its data elements. Dr. Posas is chief of the Section of Interventional Cardiology and chair of the Cardiovascular Research Unit at St. Luke's.

The CVDIS represents the first, most advanced and most ambitious project of its kind in the field of cardiovascular informatics in the Philippines. It conducts research to promote scientific analysis and understanding of cardiovascular diseases. It prioritizes studies on cardiovascular diseases that have the most significant medical impact in the country. Its research is geared toward the unique cultural and economic dimensions of Filipinos.

Technology has dramatically changed the way people live in the modern era. It definitely has great potential in improving health care. What we have discussed are the benefits of technology in cardiology alone. In our succeeding columns, we will discuss how technology has improved patient care in other disciplines of medicine.

(Angelo Palmones is a science and technology broadcaster. For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.)

Old people hit most by type 2 diabetes

DIABETES EXPERT AND ENDOCRINOLOGIST Roberto Mirasol said that despite the increasing incidence of type 2 diabetes in all age groups, it is the elderly who are affected the most when it comes to diabetes-related complications. These complications commonly affect the eyes, the kidneys, the nerves or neuropathy (causing the loss of sensation in the feet which can lead to amputation), and heart disease.

Dr. Mirasol, who is past president of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, said heart disease has become a major concern when treating diabetes and there is a two to four times increased risk for heart disease among diabetes sufferers.

Person's lifestyle

Mirasol said: "Type 2 diabetes is brought on mainly because of a person's lifestyle, as well as an increasing incidence of obesity. More and more of our children are becoming overweight and obese. So if a person is overweight,

he is more prone to diabetes."

According to him, if you are already genetically susceptible or predisposed (with a family history of the disease), all the more you are at risk of developing diabetes. So, it is a balance between the genetic susceptibility and environmental factors, he added.

Mirasol advised people who are at risk or are in the "prediabetic" stage to cut down on sweets and fatty food, and to exercise regularly. "The prediabetic stage is also what is referred to as the 'impaired glucose tolerance' or IGT stage. Impaired glucose intolerant are patients who are not yet diabetic, but they are also not normal. Their blood sugar levels are a little bit high but they do not yet fill the criteria for diabetes. And when we do the glucose tolerance test on such persons, we can see that they have a tendency toward having diabetes," he

said.

Impaired glucose tolerance or IGT can hit at any age. If you are high risk, have had previous glucose intolerance, have a family history of diabetes, or if you are obese, it is best to consult your doctor and have a blood sugar test. Usually there are no signs or symptoms of diabetes. However, most diabetics experience polyuria (frequent urination or "liling liling"), blurred vision, feeling of fatigue or dizziness, are always thirsty or hungry, and itching in the vaginal area (in women).

Type 2 diabetes treatment

Extensive research has been conducted to produce newer and better medications for type 2 diabetes treatment, such as thiazolidinediones (the glitazones), GLP-1 analogues, and the newest class called DPP-4 (dipeptidyl peptidase-4) inhibitors. Clinical data have shown that DPP-4 inhibitors like

sitagliptin helped improve the way type 2 diabetes is treated.

It is believed that type 2 diabetics will greatly benefit from this new type of medication, particularly the elderly and those with renal (kidney) problems who need treatment with an oral antidiabetic. This new antidiabetic drug enhances the body's own ability to secrete insulin. There is therefore less hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. Low blood sugar commonly occurs in the elderly and those with kidney problems.

If you suspect that you have diabetes—have a blood sugar test and check your lifestyle. "Diabetes is a life-long disease. Diabetics should really take care of themselves. They should watch what they eat and should exercise more. They should take the medicines prescribed to them and should see their doctor as often as possible. By being vigilant, the complications associated with this dreaded disease can be reduced significantly. With this, we hope to have a better quality of life for diabetic sufferers," Mirasol concluded.



MIRASOL

Young and sexually active? You may be at risk

ARE YOU YOUNG AND SEXUALLY ACTIVE? Then you may be facing sexual and reproductive health risks. This is particularly true if you belong to the 20 percent and 25 percent whose first sex experiences and most recent sex experiences, respectively, are unprotected.

These statistics are part of the findings of the Thurd Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFFS), a University of the Philippines Population Institute research project that aims to provide updated information regarding the attitude and practices of Filipino youth toward sex and reproductive health.

Having unprotected sex exposes young adults to unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and other health problems. The risk increases even further if you have more than one sexual partner.

YAFFS also reported that an estimated 400,000 abortions are performed in the Philippines every year even though the practice is illegal in the country. A third of these cases involved young women belonging to the 15-24 age group.

A significant percentage of youths, according to the same study, have also experienced some form of reproductive health problem including sexually transmitted diseases. One way to minimize your risk is by using condoms.

Safe and effective

As a sexually adventurous young adult, you may, at one time or another, have tried the so-called "withdrawal method" during one of your encounters. If you have not yet become pregnant or caused someone to be pregnant and have not yet acquired any STIs, then consider yourself among the lucky ones who have been spared from the method's high 27 percent failure rate.

Using condoms, on the other hand, provide 98 percent protection from unplanned pregnancy when used correctly and consistently. Condoms can also protect users from STIs because they are effective barriers of viruses (e.g. herpes, HIV). In fact, condoms provide 10,000 times more protection than not using any form of contraceptives.

Using condoms may also save your life. Early childbearing, abortion and STIs threaten women's health and their future fertility. By effectively preventing all of these, using condoms can therefore contribute to women's general well-being. Some studies have also shown that condoms may also help prevent cervical cancer.

Convenient and affordable

You do not need to consult a healthcare provider before you start using condoms, making it the most convenient contraceptive method. And because it is used only when needed, it is appropriate for those who do not engage in sex regularly.

You can buy condoms at Watsons, Southstar, Rose Pharmacy, convenience stores, and gas stations and supermarkets at a very affordable price. A pack of three Frenzy Condoms, for example, costs only P20.

Frenzy Condom is fun to use and made especially for young adults. It comes in three choices: banana, orange and mint.

BUSINESS

SEASONAL SLOWDOWN

Trade with Taiwan shrank 6% to \$3.4B in 1st half

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE IN GOODS BETWEEN the Philippines and Taiwan dropped by 5.94 percent to US\$3.37 billion in the first half—a development exporters described to be a seasonal slowdown.

Data from Taiwan's Government Information Office (GIO) showed that Taiwan imported from the Philippines goods worth a total of some \$1.07 billion from January to June.

The volume of imports from the Philippines dropped 23.6 percent from about \$1.4 billion in the same period of 2006.

At the same time, goods shipped to the Philippines were valued at some \$2.29 billion, increasing by 5.5 percent, or just about half the growth rate observed in the first quarter of this year.

As of end-June, Taiwan maintained the upper hand with a surplus of about \$1.22 billion, increasing by 58.3 percent, although this was also slower than the 84.2-percent posted in the first quarter.

Further, the Taiwan GIO reported that the Philippines was Taiwan's 15th largest trading partner in that period, accounting for 1.5 percent of the island economy's total global trade valued at \$217.3 billion.

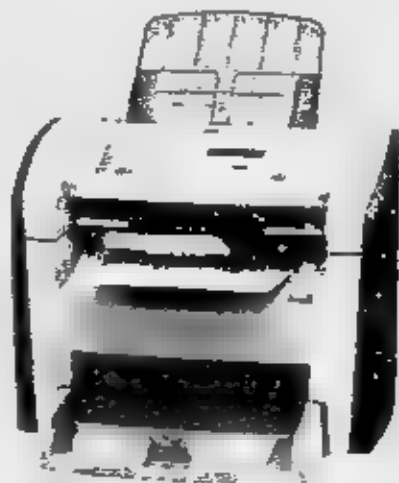
Among developing countries excluding mainland China, the Philippines was Taiwan's sixth-largest trading partner after Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Seipi president Ernie B. Santiago said that, while first-semester exports were historically slower, "things are looking good" for the rest of the year.

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Alsons, Aboitiz, Filinvest offer bids for PNOC-EDC

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED COMPANIES ALSONS Consolidated Resources Inc. and Filinvest Development Corp. yesterday submitted their initial pre-qualification requirements for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

The Philippine National Oil Co. Privatization Committee (Privacom) set 5 p.m. yesterday as the deadline for the submission of pre-qualification requirements for the 60-percent PNOC-EDC stake.

Being sold are 6 billion common and 7.5 billion preferred shares representing 26.67 percent and 33.33 percent, respectively, of PNOC-EDC's outstanding capital stock.

A source said Aboitiz Power Corp., another listed firm, also submitted its bid ahead of the

Oct. 5 deadline

The list of pre-qualified bidders will be released by Oct. 10.

But PNOC president Antonio Cailao said Privacom might be able to come out with a list even sooner.

The pre-qualified bidders will be required to submit final qualification documents by 7 p.m. of Oct. 26. Those who are able to pass final screening are given until Nov. 21 to turn in their bids.

The notice of award will be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of 100 percent of the bid price to be returned by Nov. 30, the scheduled closing date of the transaction.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would fetch for the government between P32 billion and P36 billion.

But Cailao said the bid amounts could even go beyond that price range.



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INVITATION TO BID

Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAPELCO) Main Office at Timpas, Panitan, Capiz invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the materials needed for conversion of lines from 1 phase to 3 phase at Poblacion Dumarao to Dacutan, Dumarao Capiz; from Poblacion Jamindan to Camp Peralta, Jamindan, Capiz & reconductoring of 3 phase lines from crossing Angub, Guerlero Capiz to crossing Ayuyan, Dumalag, Capiz and rehabilitation of lines

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) to the Capiz Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAPELCO) main office cashier

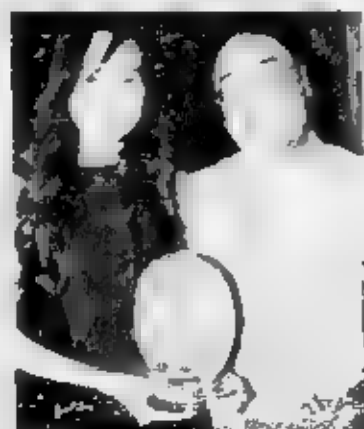
Activities	Schedule
Issuance of bid documents	October 8 to 12, 2007
Submission of requirements	October 15 to 16, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m.
Pre-bidding / Pre-qualification conference	October 17, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.
Deadline of bid submission	October 19, 2007 @ 9:00 a.m.
Opening of bids	October 19, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.

CAPELCO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as maybe considered most advantageous to the Electric Cooperative. For more information, please call DSSD or TSD offices at telephone nos. (036) 6340-282 or 525-2033.

(Sgd.) ENGR. JOVENCIO A. VILLAGRACIA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PCN-Oct. 6 & 8, 2007)

REAL-ESTATE COMPANY GLOBE ASIATIQUE WINS MOST PIONEERING AND RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT AWARD



(L-R): Divine Lee (CEO, Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation) and dad Delfin Lee (VP for Marketing and International Sales Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation)

During the recent Real Estate Development Awards held at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City, Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation was recognized as the Most Pioneering Responsive Developer. This comes at a special time as Globe Asiatique recently launched its groundbreaking project, the soon-to-be tallest edifice on EDSA, the GA Sky Suites.

Special Guest of Honor and Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Hon. Vice-President Noli de Castro graced the ceremony and also presented the

Regional, National, and Special awards, of which GA is a proud recipient of. One of the Philippine's leading real estate developers, this award truly reflects GA's undisputed efforts of catering to the working class and mid-income Filipinos. With this award, GA is more determined and driven to continuously provide quality homes at affordable prices to suit its consumers' lifestyle of elegance and convenience.

Today, Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp. remains to be one of the few real-estate companies that is

market-oriented and service-focused. With the experience and gained competence acquired through the years, the company has evolved into serving different markets from the socialized levels to middle-class levels. GA has also advanced its effort in continually designing plans and projects into progressive and successful developments. Highly-acclaimed projects such as the GA Tower, St. Monique Valas, Casa Ibiza, and the GA Sky Suites, all exhibit how GA continues to uplift the quality and standard of living for Filipinos.



Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation's father-and-daughter tandem Delfin and Divine Lee accept the Real Estate Developer Award for Most Pioneering Responsive Developer

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY



A SCALE model of the development shows the vast area of the McKinley Village being bounded by the McKinley Garden Villas (mid-rise buildings in the background).

LOOKING out from the balcony of the McKinley Hill Garden Villas, one could enjoy the picturesque view of the development and outlying neighborhood.



Megaworld's McKinley Hill set to transform Taguig landscape

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

ONE LOOK AT MCKINLEY Hill's vicinity map and you could readily tell how huge—as well as ambitious—this latest development from Megaworld Corp. is.

This 50-hectare community that will soon rise south of the Bonifacio Global City integrates four components: residential, commercial, office and institutional.

"Once completed, McKinley Hill will not only enhance the market value of the property around it but also transform Taguig City landscape, as it will feature high-end neighborhood, top-earning business establishments, highly rated entertainment, shopping and dining destinations," said Jericho Go,

first vice president of Megaworld.

Go added that McKinley Hill, which will be completed in five to seven years will be a city within a city, self-sustaining community and virtually independent.

Fast taking shape

"The P33 billion McKinley Hill is fast taking shape, particularly its residential components. In fact, the McKinley Hill Village, the biggest residential component of the development is almost sold out," Go reported.

Launched in 2004, the McKinley Hill Village offers 482 prime lots and amenities that promise to rival its adjacent neighborhood—Forbes Park and Dasmariñas.

"McKinley Hill Village has premium residential lots that give a sense of space that one has always wanted for a dream home. In fact, we have given our homebuyers option to de-

MEGAWORLD'S B3-2



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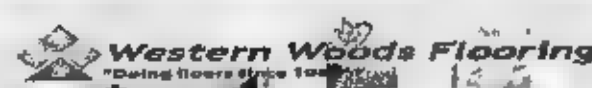
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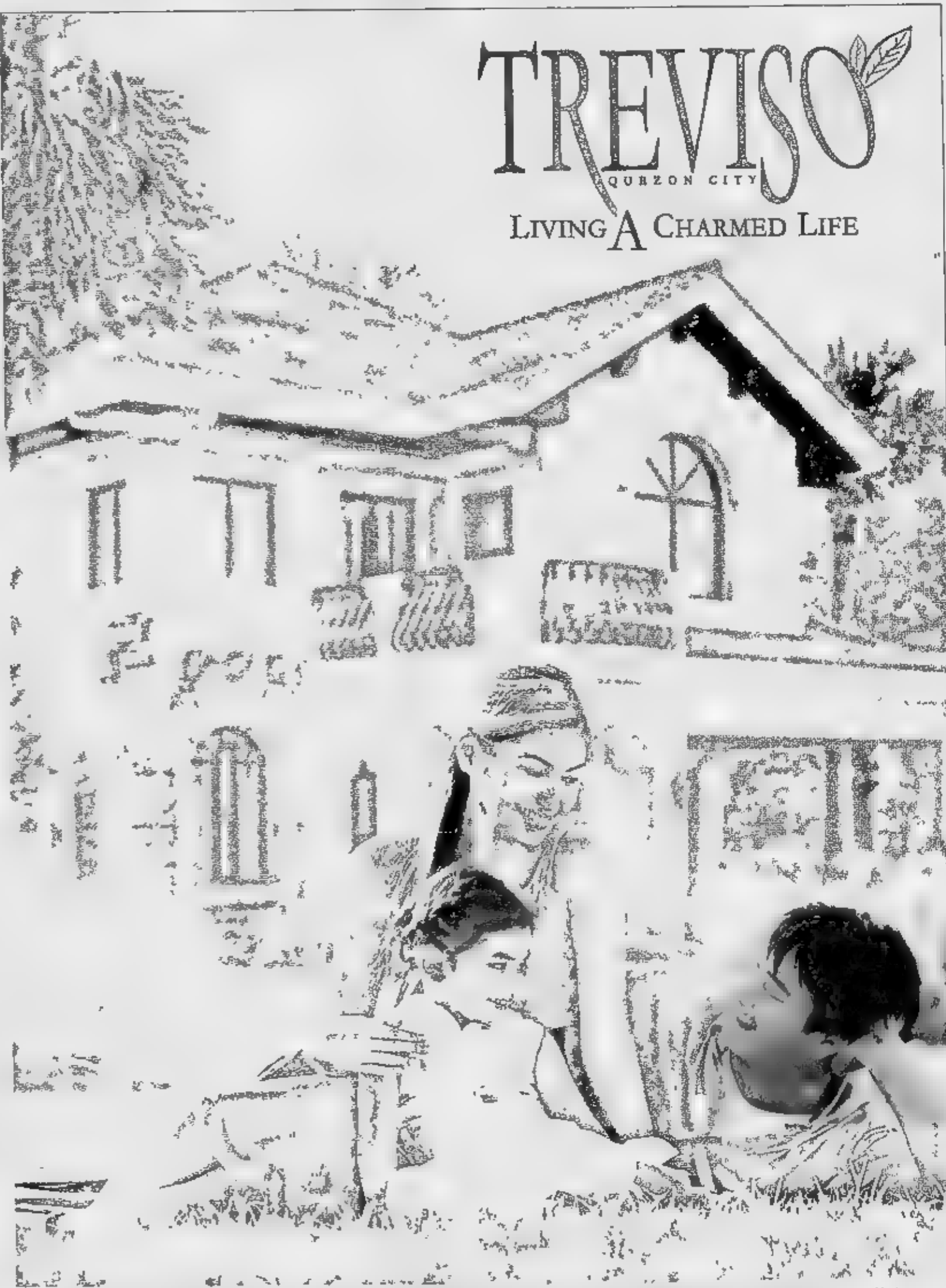
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TERMITES ARE EVERYONE'S NIGHTMARE. They are the most destructive wood insect in the world. Subterranean termite species live in large colonies underground and affect houses, buildings and cellulose-based products. Most of these species thrive in the tropics and warm temperate coastal and inland regions.

Subterranean termites enter structures by tunneling in through the soil. There are several ways they can gain access to wooden parts of a structure. They can tunnel through timber in contact with the soil; they can make shelter tubes along foundation walls; and they can make shelter tubes through a crack or void space. The key therefore to termite control is finding a way to block off these entry points by installing barriers.

Some of the most common termite control barriers are soil poisoning using pesticides, physical barriers around the house, a combination of the two or the bait and monitoring systems.

Soil poisoning

The new generation of soil treatment is water-based.

This is in contrast to earlier chemicals like Chlordane, which have been banned in the market because they were toxic and stayed in the soil for many years. This new type of treatment chemicals must be applied by licensed pest control professionals.

Bait, monitoring systems

The bait and monitoring system consists mainly of placing wood baits around the house at regular intervals of about ten feet. The baits are monitored every two weeks and once termites are detected, they are replaced with termiticide baits.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus



The termites carry these baits back and feed them to the rest of the colony, eventually killing the termites.

Physical barriers

An effective environment-friendly and nontoxic method of termite control is the installation of physical barriers around the house.

One type of physical barrier is a termite shield which is simply a sheet of noncorroding metal with a projecting 1" lip bent down at a 45-degree angle capping the foundation wall or support.

The other types are stainless steel mesh barrier and waterproof membrane barriers. These types of barriers, like the termite shield, are also installed in a similar manner.

The fourth type is the sand barrier which is easy to install and most effective when placed during construction. In some countries a six-inch layer of barrier sand is laid out instead of crushed gravel beneath the slab. The barrier sand could be used as backfill next to the foundation walls with provisions for a good drainage system.

Why sand barriers?

The idea behind the use of sand as an effective termite control is that sand particles help block termites.

Termites use their mouth parts rather than

their legs to dig their way through the soil. They are unable to move particles larger than 1 mm. As the sand particles increase in size so does the void space between the particles. Termites can crawl through gaps or spaces between particles sized 3mm and above. Therefore, to block termites the effective particle size is about 1 to 3 mm.

Coarse sand with particles within this size range can be used as a barrier around the foundation of a house to protect against subterranean termites. It can also be used in perimeter trenches, crawl spaces, inside hollow block voids, around the bases of fence posts, poles, piers, porches, decks and retaining walls.

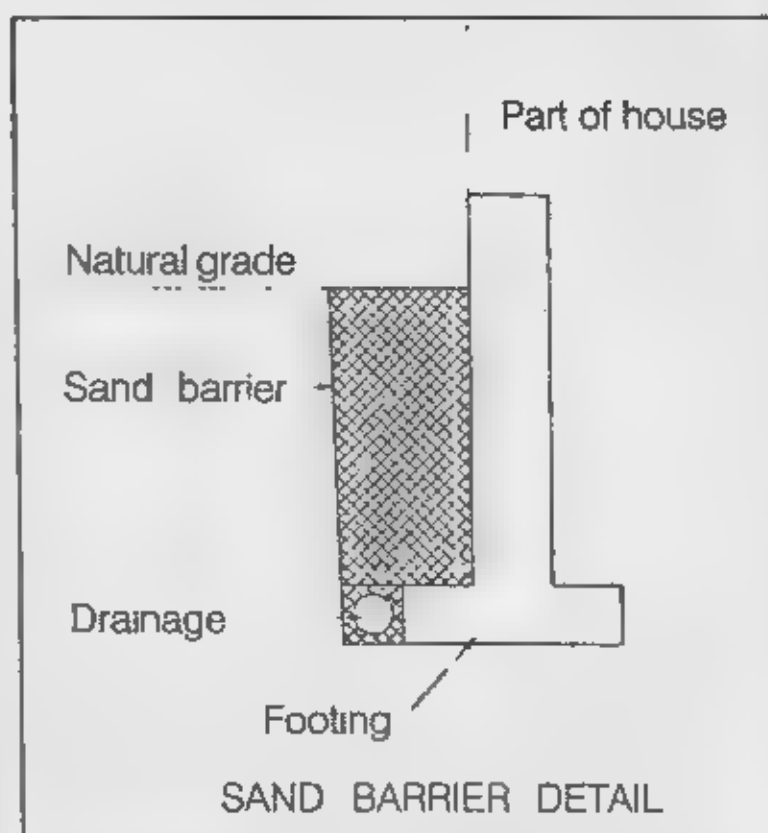
Installation of sand barriers

If the sand barrier is installed before construction it is placed below the concrete slab as a base material. For footings, however, sand barriers cannot be placed underneath since footings must rest on solid undisturbed ground. If installed after construction, the sand barrier is placed as a trench alongside the foundation wall. An adequate surface drainage must be provided to ensure minimal drainage of surface water into full depth trenches.

Barriers can be 4" or 6" thick extending all the way to the footing. It must be compacted at intervals of every two feet to prevent settlement. The top of the sand barrier can be left exposed or, where pedestrian access is required, covered with concrete slab, bricks or stone blocks to form a walkway.

Advantages of sand barriers

The prevalent method of subterranean termite control relies on the use of chemicals to poison the soil, thus creating a protective seal



SAND BARRIER is an effective environment-friendly and nontoxic method of termite control that is best installed during construction as a preventive measure against termite infestation.

SOURCE: A. P. DE JESUS & ASSOCIATES, GREEN ARCHITECTURE

or barrier around the structure.

A sand barrier is more effective than a chemical barrier since it does not require a repetitious application. The sand barrier also has an environmental advantage in that it does not pose a health hazard to humans either through direct contact of the chemicals or through soil and water contamination.

Sand barriers save the homeowner the costs of chemical reapplication and maintenance contracts for the chemical pesticide treatment.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Wedgewood a 40-hectare grand residential estate in Pangasinan

PANGASINAN WITNESSED THE RISE of the first themed, master-planned residential project in the locale when Communities Philippines began the development of The Wedgewood in Sta. Barbara more than 9 years ago. Today, the community has evolved into a grand scale 40-hectare, full-blown residential estate. Communities Philippines marked another milestone of The Wedgewood with the recent opening of its sixth phase, The Willows of Wedgewood.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., Communities Philippines is the expert in converting the countryside into a landscape of sought-after enclaves and the first Manila-based developer to expand operations into key cities and municipalities across the country. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest homebuilder offering the broadest spectrum of homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the country.

First 5 enclaves

An encompassing American country theme lends a warm and charming ambience to every home and the whole neighborhood of The Wedgewood. Each of the first five enclaves presents a selection of living options to address the unique needs of different families:

- The Orchard of Wedgewood,



THE 40-HECTARE residential estate boasts of six phases while maintaining a generous expanse of greens.

with lots only packages.

- The Orchard Home Series, with a choice of carefully-designed bungalow residences to suit beginning families;
- The Trails of Wedgewood, which features two-story homes;
- The Hills of Wedgewood, which offers both bungalow and two-story homes;
- The Heights of Wedgewood, with a collection of bungalow and two-story homes, and lots-only packages. A 100-hectare expansion for the enclave is already underway.

Newest phase

The newest phase, The Willows of Wedgewood, is a six-hectare lakefront expansion offering two-story resi-

dences and lots-only packages which allow you to customize your American country-inspired home according to your family's lifestyle and needs.

Future residents of The Wedgewood can choose among the nine full two-story homes with floor areas beginning at 64 to 231 square meters on lots starting at 110 to 288 sq m; or choose the bungalow home series which presents practical yet comfortable options: Rosemary, Chamomile, Cranberry, Citronella and Celandine with floor areas ranging from 31 to 72 sq m on lots beginning at 88 to 154 sq m. For more information on The Wedgewood, call Communities Pangasinan at 075-5224340 or log on to www.comunphil.com.

The Fifth at Rafael

CONDO LIVING HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS to a contemporary urban lifestyle. The city enjoys flourishing real estate investments in condominiums because of the unique living benefits condos offer to the fast-paced circumstances of today.

Accessibility, its major selling point, is a premium taken in high regard because being central to everything lets city-dwellers get the best out of the metropolis. When everything is at convenience, life is good. Condo living offers this comfort among a wealth of other modern luxuries.

Symbol of independence

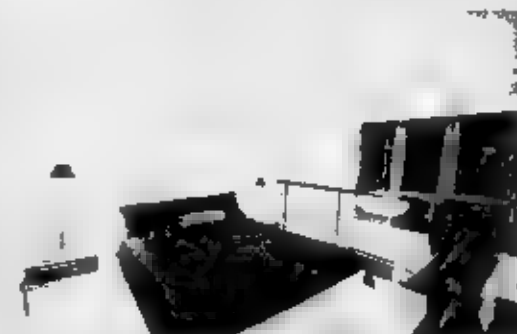
Condo living has also propelled a new breed of metropolitan life that makes practical choices; the success of low maintenance living keeps people afloat in a dog-eat-dog world. This is especially true for struggling young professionals who place tremendous value on their hard-earned money yet believe that their hard work must reap benefits.

Upon reaching a point in their careers when living on their own is already a viable option, most yuppies don't look for houses immediately—they scour the real estate market for affordable condominiums, possibly one close to work. However, this doesn't always come as easy.

Low-density development

PT Properties, the real estate company responsible for the success of Grand 21 Place, opens up an exciting world of possibilities for today's smart buyer. The Fifth at Rafael, a low-density development tucked in the commercial neighborhood of Kapitolio, Pasig, features affordable housing investments targeted at average young professionals.

The 7-story building houses studio and one-



A BEDROOM at The Fifth

bedroom configurations that may easily be modified to suit various tastes and lifestyles.

The Fifth gives its residents the opportunity to secure a bright future ahead without worrying too much about financial burdens, making it a suitable investment that puts more value to your money.

Comfortable living space

The Fifth's Asian-themed tower, a masterpiece by architect Jose Siao Ling, flaunts a gleaming structure of glass and concrete. To ensure comfortable living space for its residents, the mixed-use development has only 73 units. This avoids annoying building traffic and guarantees a sense of privacy for tenants.

Amenities include a garden deck with a multipurpose function room and an exercise hall available to residents, as well as a spacious lobby to welcome them home. Upon completion of the building, the ground level will be home to select commercial establishments.

The Fifth also offers round-the-clock services including 24-hour security, audio security system, fire alarm and sprinkler system to make sure residents feel safe at all times.

Greenfield City spurs Sta. Rosa growth

GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT Corp. has truly emerged as one of the country's top property developers in the past four decades. What could be considered the pioneering heritage project of GDC is Greenfield City—a masterplanned community in the South that has symbiotically spurred growth between GDC and the local community the company established itself in.

For a decade now, Greenfield City has firmly stood for and continues to symbolize the dynamic growth that the Calabarzon area has experienced.

Pinnacle of GDC success

Situated in the burgeoning municipality of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Greenfield City truly is the pinnacle of GDC's success because it stands as a testament to the property developer's acute masterplanning expertise and commitment not only to developing land, but to creating a sus-

tainable community and a highly productive development which even the whole country benefits from.

Greenfield City is a paragon of property development that successfully manages residential, commercial, industrial and recreational facilities, plus transportation hubs and facilities, to create an overall self-sustaining and highly attractive community in a setting atypical of the traditional, crowded central business districts in the metro.

Access routes

As developments went full swing for Greenfield City, GDC co-ventured infrastructure projects, such as the completion of major road networks like the Mampasan Interchange and ABI-Greenfield Interchange linking the South Metro to the growth center, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The establishment of road and transportation networks is but a vital aspect of the overall sustainabil-

ity of the community GDC creates.

These access routes are especially important to the economic and industrial center of Greenfield City—the Greenfield Auto Park and Sta. Rosa Business Park, where growth opportunities in the South continue to thrive.

Greenfield Auto Park (GAP) is a special industrial estate accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) that is home to automotive and auto-related manufacturing firms, providing thousands of jobs to Filipinos. Also located nearby is Greenfield Automall, a convenient five-hectare hub of related automotive, retail and commercial establishments. Sta. Rosa Business Park, on the other hand, is the primary office and commercial zone of the area, also immensely contributing to job and industry generation in the South.

Heart of Greenfield City

To help build the residential

sector and the neighboring communities in the locale is Paseo De Sta. Rosa, considered to be the heart of Greenfield City as a rising metropolis. This commercial and leisure center has undergone numerous expansions since its opening, due to the overwhelming patronage and response of families in the South.

Paseo de Sta. Rosa comprises retail, dining and leisure areas such as Paseo 1, 2 and 3. Outlet shops, wellness establishments and fast-food restaurants provide relaxing and enjoyable surroundings, complementing the fun, festive, wholesome entertainment that could be enjoyed at the Promenade and Paseo 3 with its restaurants and party places.

Lifestyle hub

A new and better lifestyle hub is in the works, called Laguna Central, that will add even more vibrancy to the already bustling social life in the South at Greenfield City.



GREENFIELD AutoPark in Greenfield City—home of Ford in the Philippines

Completing GDC's vision of creating an ideal community is building a residential park, called Pramana. The pioneering residential area of Greenfield City, Pramana is a place that promises the sanctity of suburban living despite the urban-like development of the Sta. Rosa area. More than half of Pramana's 80-hectare area will be devoted to wide spaces, tree-lined roads, pocket gardens and greenery. The tastefully designed homes will feature Asian-inspired modern architecture, and residents will benefit greatly from excellent security, facilities and amenities that ensure total convenience and comfort.

All these continuous achievements of GDC in Sta. Rosa continue to provide a benchmark for a carefully masterplanned and sustainable property development.

Through GDC's years of expertise and experience in Greenfield City and in the South, it also strives to replicate business opportunities in Metro Manila with Greenfield District—a 24-hectare retail, office and residential area that fuses vital transportation hub with several retail destinations.

Truly, a decade of growth in the South has led to momentous advancements in technology, economy and nation-building by GDC with Greenfield City.

Megaworld's McKinley Hill set to transform

From page B2-1

sign their dream home based on eight architectural themes created by some of the country's renowned architects." Go shared.

Other residential dev'ts

Aside from the McKinley Hill Village, there are also other residential developments like the McKinley Hill Garden Villas, two 5-story mid-rise residential clusters featuring Spanish-Mediterranean architecture; Stamford Executive Residences, three high-rise (18-stories) luxury towers adjacent to McKinley Hill Cy-

berPark; and the McKinley Hill Tuscan Private Estate, a gated community of medium-rise garden villas geared toward the upper market.

While Megaworld will spend P18 billion to develop these residential components, it will also spend P3 billion to develop the commercial components, particularly The Venetian, a new mall which recreates the historic architecture and canals of Venice in Italy.

Go explained that since McKinley is a self-sustaining community, its residents don't really have to go out of the com-

munity to enjoy the finest things in life saying that everything they need is a few minutes' walk or ride away.

Attract professionals

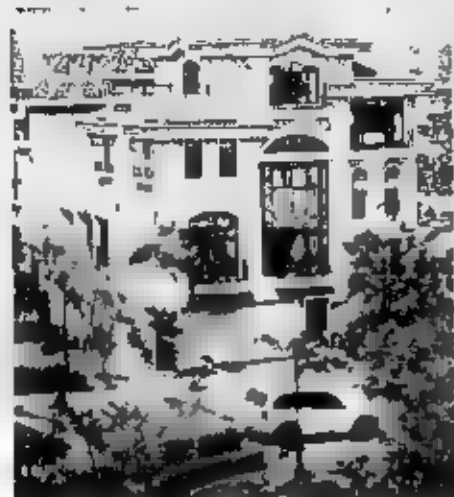
These new developments also hope to attract the professionals who will soon work for the emerging business and commercial districts within McKinley Hill.

This is because the 14-hectare McKinley Hill Cyberpark will host several third-generation business process outsourcing (BPO) office buildings

In fact, Megaworld has just finished construction of the first BPO building inside McKinley Hill, the One World Square, which boasts 30,000 square meters of office space.

The company allotted P2 billion to speed up the construction of the second two-tower, 15-story building (called Two World Square), which is expected to be completed by September 2008.

All in all, Megaworld is set to invest P12 billion over the next few years even committing to construct two BPO buildings a year up to 2014.



Capturing natural light for indoor spaces

PROLONGED WET WEATHER—which leads to bleak and shadowy days—generally predisposes us to feeling sad, murky and obscure. When too many days have gone by without sunlight, we feel lethargic, as though covered by a dark cloud.

So that the spaces in our homes, workplaces and institutions function properly on those gloomy days, we need supplemental illumination that sufficiently emulates daylight. Unfortunately, artificial light is not only wasteful of power, it also does not give us the full benefit of natural daylight.

Aside from providing light, daylight is important because of its health benefits. Vitamin D and serotonin (the well-being hormone) are produced by the body when exposed to sunlight.

The use of daylight

In the workplace, the use of daylight has been shown to increase productivity and develop a higher state of well-being for its occupants. It works just as well in schools where the increased provision of daylight has been shown to improve the performance of students.

Human beings naturally seek day-

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer
Asuncion



light. Even in restaurants, the first seats to be taken are those by the window, whether or not it looks out into a pretty view. In pleasant weather, the al fresco seats are the first to go.

On the esthetic side, light allows us to enjoy our spaces more as it articulates forms and textures, and brings a vividness to color. Since the sun's movement and intensity are quite rhythmical, we must consider its position when planning our spaces.

Harnessing daylight

Orientation is the most basic consideration when harnessing daylight. A North-South orientation is ideal, with the longer sides with greater exposure facing the north and south. The north and south are not directly exposed to the sun's harmful UV rays, direct heat, glare and overillumination. Thus, this

is where the bigger openings should be.

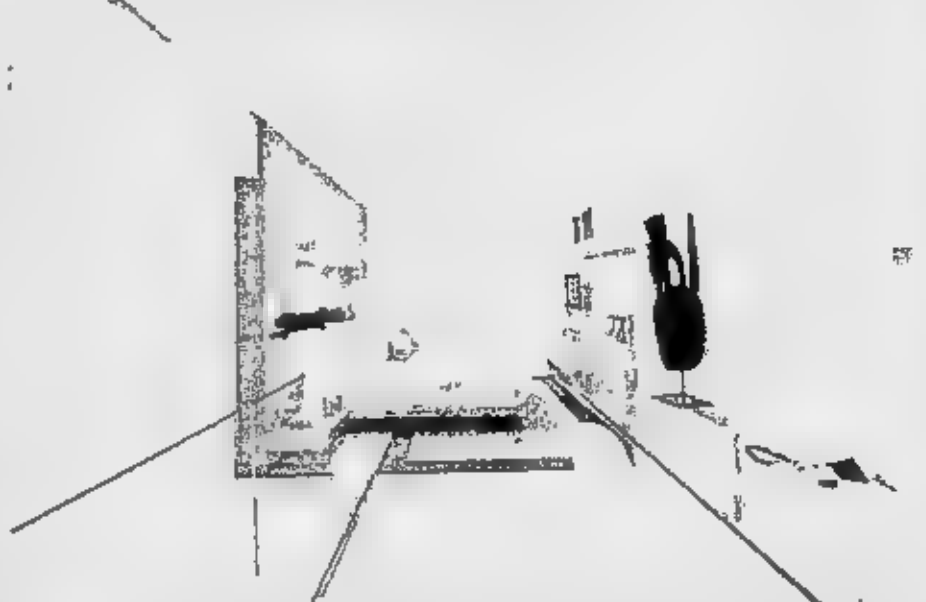
When a North-South orientation is not possible, wide eaves and deep recesses will provide proper shading from the unfiltered rays of the sun coming in through the East and West, while still allowing an ample amount of light to stream through.

The use of light-colored finishes for exterior surfaces promotes reflectance into other areas, especially the indoors. Light-colored fence walls, for example, can effectively deflect light and bounce light into the interiors.

Most effective

Clerestory windows, windows that are located on the vertical surface like at the uppermost part of a wall, are also a good source of reflected natural light. These types of windows are most effective when they are located within the central area of an indoor space since they allow light to stream down and bounce off adjoining walls. While skylights bring in more illumination, they also trap a lot of heat, unlike the more functional clerestories.

In similar light (pun intended), keeping interior finishes in less satu-



LIGHT-COLORED surfaces reflect natural light and help maximize daylight within interior spaces.

rated color tones help spread and maintain light within spaces that would otherwise be dark and gloomy. The floor is where sunlight falls and therefore plays a large part in rebounding it into other surfaces of a

room. Like a sponge, a dark floor will immediately soak up light and deprive all other surfaces of any reflectance.

Sunlight is indeed precious—and even just a little—will bring a better sense of place to any room.

Vista Land's Lakefront City Central a landmark in Metro South

A PROGRESSIVELY GROWING METRO South unveils another world-class urban development courtesy of Vista Land, the country's largest home builder. Welcome to Lakefront City Central, Manila's next great metropolitan hub. Perched on 60 hectares of prime property in the heart of Sucat, this massive development offers residential, commercial, business and institutional enclaves inspired by the San Francisco Bay Area.

Its topography affords residents an unobstructed 180-degree view of Laguna de Bay and the Sierra Madre mountains. In addition, its close proximity to the airport and the Makati and Ortigas business districts makes it the most viable urban development this side of Manila.

Amid the scenic bayside idyll, Lakefront City Central is masterplanned to become a premier destination rife with energy, activity and growth. Done in partnership with the landed Marfori-Posadas family noted for their legacy of excellence in developing residential communities, it will be the ultimate cosmopolitan center—a dynamic city unto itself where residents can live, work and play.

Home central

Lakefront City Central is currently in the first phase of development. This includes 26 hectares of residential clusters under Vista Land subsidiaries Britany Corp. and Crown Asia, both renowned leaders in the local housing landscape.

Other developments where things are still on the drawing board, these clusters have already become a thriving community of neighborhoods. There is the completed La Posada, with its single-detached homes adorned with lovely bay windows and porches; Victorienne, pastel-colored townhomes reminiscent of San Francisco's Postcard Row; Presidio, a complex of six to eight low-rise condos with intertwined commercial establishments; and The Marfori, an exclusive enclave of high-rise condominiums.

A testament to Lakefront City Central's continuous progress is the soon-to-be-completed clubhouse at La Posada. This neo-Victorian-inspired complex houses the community's basketball courts, pocket gardens, a free-form pool, viewing deck and al fresco areas for events. A topping-off ceremony will be held today for Viera, the first tower of The Marfori. Now open for viewing are the two-bedroom model units of stylish but affordable Presidio and the one-bedroom model unit of The Marfori, the only high-rise property with 180-degree view of Laguna de Bay.

In the pipeline will be exclusive midhigh-



SATISFY your gustatory cravings at Lakefront City Central's The Wharf.



rise residential condos and multifamily homes—all offering a view of the Laguna de Bay and the soon-to-open Central Park.

Fun central

Vista Land makes ample space for leisure in this spirited San Francisco-themed development. To complement these existing communities is Lakefront City Central's very own lifestyle and entertainment complex spanning eight hectares. This includes The Wharf, already a recognized hotspot where Metro South residents come to enjoy good food and music.

Located right off the Sucat Exit and highly visible from along the East Service Road, The Wharf is home to such establishments as Figaro, Grappa's, Dencio's Grill, Hap Chan, Pancake House, Brother's Burger and

THE PROMISE of a happy home awaits at Presidio.

Murasaki. Kids can learn dance and music at the Bay Center for Music and Arts. For an evening of swing and boogie, there's the '60s-inspired dance bar in The Mood.

Work central

Rounding off Lakefront City Central's grand masterplan is an interactive central business district. Soon, it will be home to offices, call center and business process outsourcing facilities and various commercial establishments. A commercial transport park will be integrated to make the daily commute easy and pleasant.

Also in the horizon are institutional establishments like first-rate schools, a hospital, a cultural center and a museum.

Green central

At Lakefront City Central, you can find a place where nature plays a major role in providing a cool and refreshing environment.

Lakefront's Central Park will make you discover the pleasures and benefits of walking in any of the Park Trails. Relax your mind, de-stress and recharge in front of the man-made lagoon. You can commune with nature in the Japanese tea garden adorned by a distinctive selection of plants and rock formations.

InnerConnectivity

Vista Land is making sure that Lakefront City Central is as accessible as it is livable.

There will be four major access points—the East Service Road by Sucat Exit; the East Service Road, a kilometer away from the Bicutan Exit; the South Railway that spans from Clark, Pampanga to Bicol; and the Circumferential Road 6 link.

The almost completed Marfori Avenue will link the whole of Lakefront from Sucat all the way to the C6 gateway, making the Presidio community more accessible.



HardiFlex Senepa giving homes a distinctive edge

HOMEBUYERS MAY NOT BE AWARE OF, or too concerned about, the quality of the fascia boards used in building the house they are planning to buy, but developers know that using poor quality fascia boards will be expensive and might even damage their reputation in the long term.

In fact, it would only take one rainy season for a homebuyer to know the quality of the fascia board that was used in their home. Fascia boards are mainly used as roofing skirt and backing for rain gutters.

According to engineer Lito Garay, operations manager of property development company PA Alvarez, homebuyers must also check the quality of the fascia boards used because these are exposed to rain and sunlight.

Shift to cement boards

"We used to use fascia boards made of (kun dried) wood but after only about 2 years our customers already start complaining because these fascia boards rot and shrink due to exposure to rain and to termite infestation," Garay explained.

He said this led them to try HardiFlex Senepa fiber cement boards. "Our company has been using James Hardie products even before, so when they introduced HardiFlex Senepa cement boards to us in 2004 we immediately tried it and we have been using it

ever since," he added.

James Hardie, a global leader in cement fiber boards has been promoting HardiFlex Senepa cement boards in the Philippines as a functional backing support to eave systems that are also decorative.

HardiFlex Senepa cement fascia board is resistant to damage from moisture, termites and fire when installed and maintained correctly, and does not contain cancer-causing asbestos. Its smooth finish is ready for painting.

Highly satisfied

PA Alvarez is highly satisfied with the quality of HardiFlex Senepa. "Since we started using it we have not received a single complaint," Garay said.

PA Alvarez has chosen to focus on providing quality homes to employees of local companies.

The company uses HardiFlex cement boards for ceilings and internal partitions. Within the next five years the company plans to develop around 3 to 4 more subdivisions, also in Laguna.

It is also expanding its presence outside of Laguna, particularly to the Metro Manila area, through its affiliate E. A. Metro Residential Builders Inc., which specializes in developing medium-rise and affordable condominiums.

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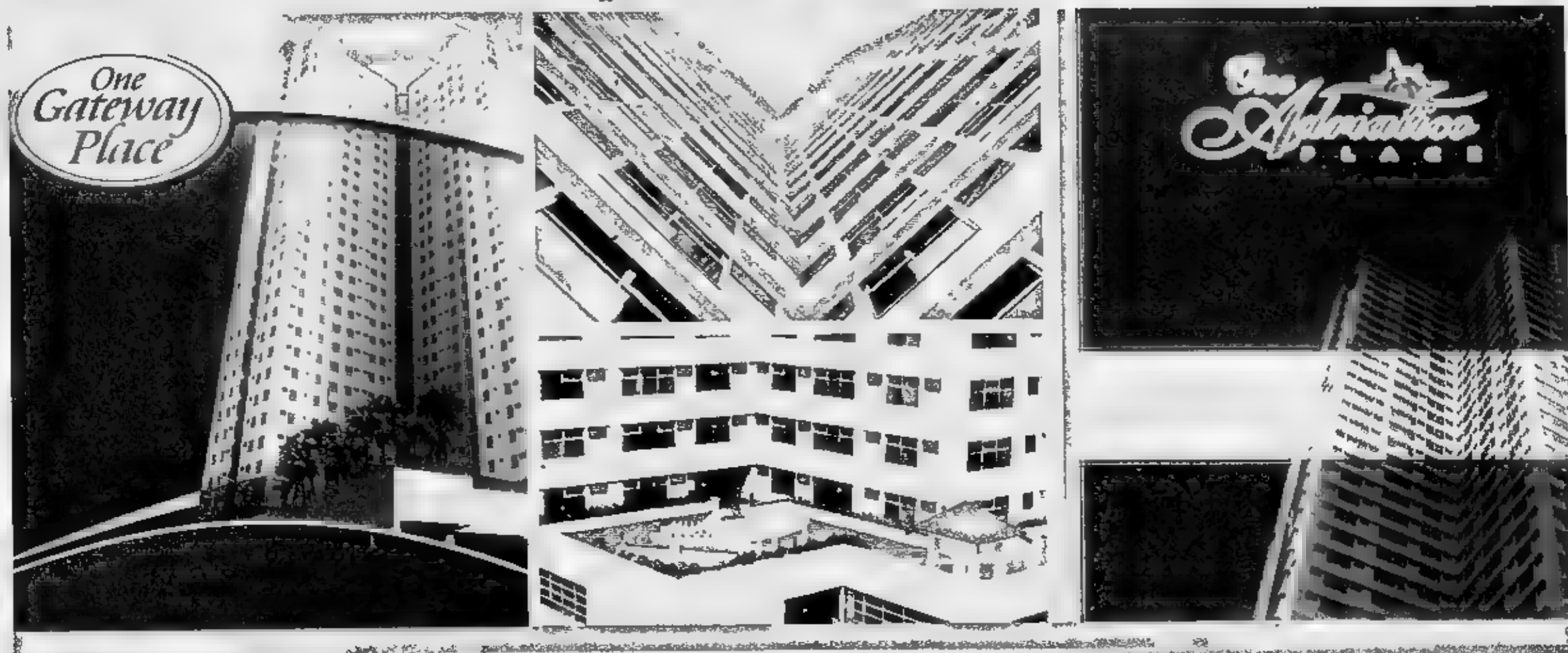
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Dreams fulfilled, promises delivered

By Joel V. Nigos

Fulfillment may not be enough to describe the feeling. After all, this is the only time that one's years of toiling, hard work and perseverance would finally yield something that is tangible and permanent.

Excitement is all over the place. Smiles are on everyone's faces. Typical scene perhaps as Robinsons Land Corp recently began to turn over the units to buyers of its two prime properties - One Adriatico Place and One Gateway Place. Finally, these buyers are moving in to the place which they would call home.

For Robinsons Land Corporation, the sense of achievement is mutual, as there's satisfaction on the part of the buyers when a unit is turned over to them.

"This is when we are able to finally fulfill our commitment to our buyers. It's also our way of saying thank you to them for putting their trust in us," Mybelle Aragon-GoBio, vice president for business development, smiles.

Currently being turned over are more than a thousand units to owners-over 400 at One Gateway Place and 600 at One Adriatico Place.

Expected to move in are a mix of new residents, investors and end-users. These include Filipino-American buyers who will now be able to

realize their dreams of setting foot again in their homeland, and Filipino-Chinese who wish to live outside the Binondo District.

One Adriatico Place and One Gateway Place are just two of developments which are part of the mixed-use projects of Robinsons Land Corporation.

One Adriatico Place is part of Adriatico Residences, an impressive three-tower development integrated with the Robinsons Place-Manila Mall. Situated at the heart of the country's capital, Adriatico Residences exudes an old world charm.

"We envisioned One Adriatico Place, along with the two residential towers beside it - Two Adriatico Place and Three Adriatico Place, whose ongoing construction is ahead of schedule - to usher a new level of residential lifestyle in historic Manila. A landmark address destined to add elegance and beauty to the Malate skyline," shares GoBio.

This concept, adds GoBio, is also primarily anchored on the "Convenience of Living Beside a Mall." She says that "the whole project is integrated with our mixed-use development, a 7-hectare prime property at the heart of Manila's busiest and trendiest commercial area."

One Adriatico Place is close to government offices, hospitals, educational institutions, as well as hip lifestyle establishments. Its proximity to the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and the city's major thoroughfares makes its central location even

more unique and practical.

"Living in One Adriatico Place is a '24/7 lifestyle' like no other. The entire development sits on a huge platform, where a comprehensive mix of amenities like swimming pools, function areas, play area, jogging path, fitness area and much more are integrated to make it convenient for our residents," says Ferdinand Adriano, RLC's director for marketing.

Situated beside the Robinsons Pioneer complex, One Gateway Place, on the other hand, is one of the most centrally located spots



THE RLC Team behind its two prestigious properties. Seated, from left: Constantino Felipe, VP-special projects; Mybelle Aragon-GoBio, VP-business development; Kerwin Max Tan, VP-operations. Standing, from left: Ferdinand Adriano, director of marketing, and engineer Manny Arce, AVP-project management.

one can find in the metropolis. A few minutes away from the busy Makati and Orugas central business districts, this 28-storey prime project has one-, two- or three-bedroom units ideal for fast-paced urban lifestyle.

The strategic location of One Gateway Place is further enhanced by its proximity to Robinsons Place Pioneer, by the efficient and traffic-free MRT, with the Boni Station a few steps away and ready to take you either north or south of the city in a matter of minutes. The Pioneer Complex is now a thriving community since the opening of Robinsons Place Pioneer.

Apart from Robinsons Place Pioneer, the first structure built in the area and the residential condominium, under construction in the sprawling complex are the Gateway Garden Ridge, which promises to be the smart and practical choice for young urban families and active individuals, and the Gateway Garden Heights, which has wide outdoor open spaces and cozy interiors that allow its owners to enjoy privacy and comfort with its bi-level concept.

Robinsons Land pioneered mixed-use developments in the country. Situating projects within such developments create added value to the condominium units. "We always look at the com-

mercial viability of the place. We build the mall first then we put the residential and office buildings to provide the critical mass in the mall. There's synergy in the entire development," shares GoBio.

But she explains that even in their stand-alone projects, RLC always makes sure that there's added value in the developments with the amenities that it provides, true to its thrust of providing convenience, comfort and leisure.

In completing these two projects, RLC has tapped the services of its equally hardworking partners which have also maintained high quality standards in their developments. These complemented the esteemed track record of RLC.

"Our track record speaks for itself. We have done it before and we continue to do it now. We have remained true to our commitment to excellence and client satisfaction. And through this turn over, we would like to be continually associated with delivering our promises," Gobio concludes.

For more information on Robinsons Land Corporation and its projects, visit www.robinson-properties.com.ph. For inquiries, e-mail properties@robinsonsland.com or call telephone numbers 636-0888 or 0922-838-0888.

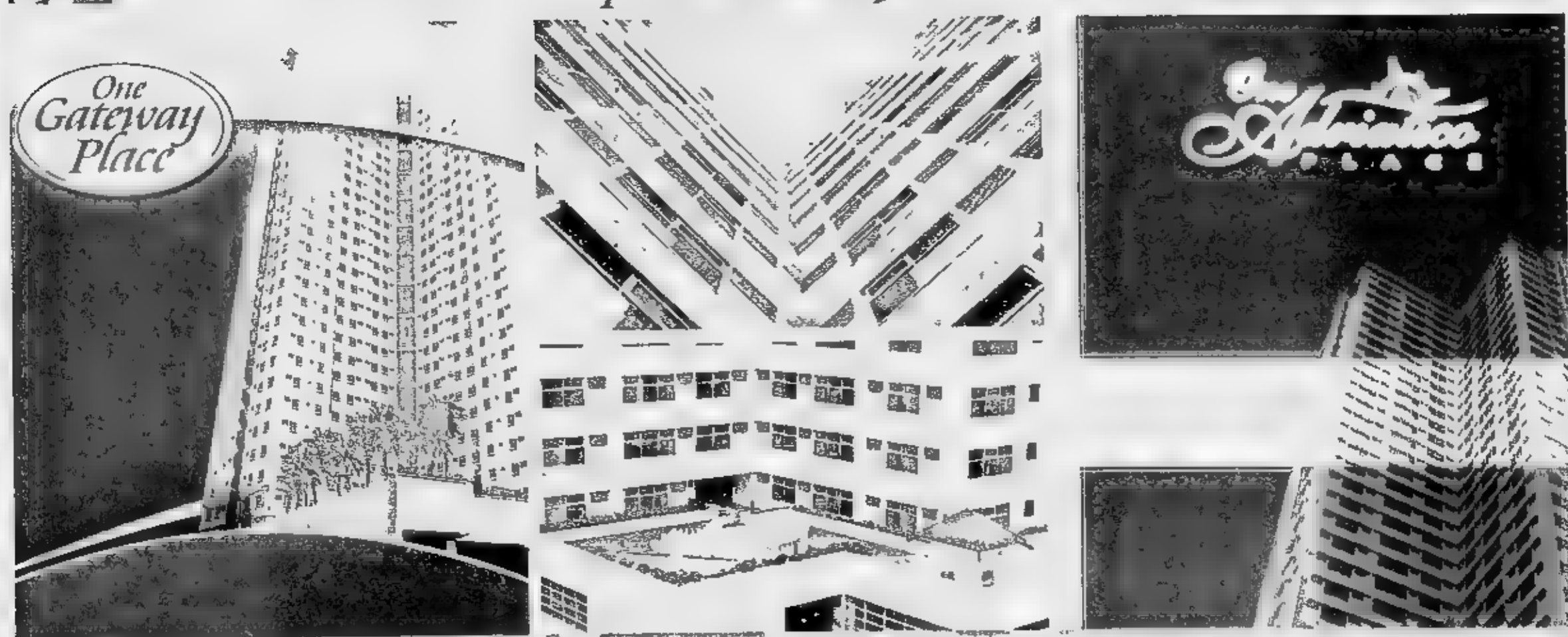
ONE Adriatico Place provides an exhilarating view of the Manila skyline.



BY the One Gateway Place poolside.

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One Adriatico Place is part of Adriatico Residences, an impressive three-tower development integrated with the Robinsons Place-Manila Mall. Situated at the heart of the country's capital, Adriatico Residences exudes an old world charm.

"We envisioned One Adriatico Place, along with the two residential towers beside it - Two Adriatico Place and Three Adriatico Place, whose ongoing construction is ahead of schedule - to usher a new level of residential lifestyle in historic Manila. A landmark address destined to add elegance and beauty to the Malate skyline," shares GoBio.

This concept, adds GoBio, is also primarily anchored on the "Convenience of Living Beside a Mall." She says that "the whole project is integrated with our mixed-use development, a 7-hectare prime property at the heart of Manila's busiest and trendiest commercial area."

One Adriatico Place is close to government offices, hospitals, educational institutions, as well as hip lifestyle establishments. Its proximity to the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and the city's major thoroughfares makes its central location even

more unique and practical.

"Living in One Adriatico Place is a '24/7 lifestyle' like no other. The entire development sits on a huge platform, where a comprehensive mix of amenities like swimming pools, function areas, play area, jogging path, fitness area and much more are integrated to make it convenient for our residents," says Ferdinand Adriano, RLC's director for marketing.

Situated beside the Robinsons Pioneer complex, One Gateway Place, on the other hand, is one of the most centrally located spots



THE RLC Team behind its two prestigious properties. Seated, from left: Constantino Felipe, VP-special projects; Mybelle Aragon-GoBio, VP-business development; Kerwin Max Tan, VP-operations. Standing, from left: Ferdinand Adriano, director of marketing, and engineer Manny Arce, AVP-project management.

one can find in the metropolis. A few minutes away from the busy Makati and Ortigas central business districts, this 28-storey prime project has one-, two- or three-bedroom units ideal for fast-paced urban lifestyle.

The strategic location of One Gateway Place is further enhanced by its proximity to Robinsons Place Pioneer, by the efficient and traffic-free MRT, with the Boni Station a few steps away and ready to take you either north or south of the city in a matter of minutes. The Pioneer Complex is now a thriving community since the opening of Robinsons Place Pioneer.

Apart from Robinsons Place Pioneer, the first structure built in the area and the residential condominium, under construction in the sprawling complex are the Gateway Garden Ridge, which promises to be the smart and practical choice for young urban families and active individuals, and the Gateway Garden Heights, which has wide outdoor open spaces and cozy interiors that allow its owners to enjoy privacy and comfort with its bi-level concept.

Robinsons Land pioneered mixed-use developments in the country. Situating projects within such developments create added value to the condominium units. "We always look at the com-

mercial viability of the place. We build the mall first then we put the residential and office buildings to provide the critical mass in the mall. There's synergy in the entire development," shares GoBio.

But she explains that even in their stand-alone projects, RLC always makes sure that there's added value in the developments with the amenities that it provides, true to its thrust of providing convenience, comfort and leisure.

In completing these two projects, RLC has tapped the services of its equally hardworking partners which have also maintained high quality standards in their developments. These complemented the esteemed track record of RLC.

"Our track record speaks for itself. We have done it before and we continue to do it now. We have remained true to our commitment to excellence and client satisfaction. And through this turn over, we would like to be continually associated with delivering our promises," Gobio concludes.

For more information on Robinsons Land Corporation and its projects, visit www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph. For inquiries, e-mail properties@robinsonsland.com or call telephone numbers 636-0888 or 0922-838-0888.

ONE Adriatico Place provides an exhilarating view of the Manila skyline.

BY the One Gateway Place poolside.

'Robinsons Land pioneered mixed-use developments in the country. Situating projects within such developments create added value to the condominium units. We always look at the commercial viability of the place. We build the mall first then we put the residential and office buildings to provide the critical mass in the mall'



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MIX WITH SUPER

A taste of
Ms Badkiss

By Tati Wenz

Sugarfree off
the record

By James Cabrillo

The Amazing
Racebook

By Paolo Reyes

The Italian
(art) jobBy Katrina
Heligores

Photography: Eddie Boy Escudero
 Makeup by: Laila Hernandez
 for Shu Uemura
 Cover model and stylist:
 Cristina Bartges in die Maria
 Location: Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila
 Special thanks to: Isabel Gatulalan and
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uper

D.I.Y.

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SUPER ►►

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 ga Gallego, Juana Manahan, Paolo Reyes • Art
 Traffic Controller: Abel Almandy • Cabin Crew:
 Belen Belenaria, L.A. Mislanes • Ground Crew:
 Ma-yan Ayas, Rhona Comangel, Lila Lazaro

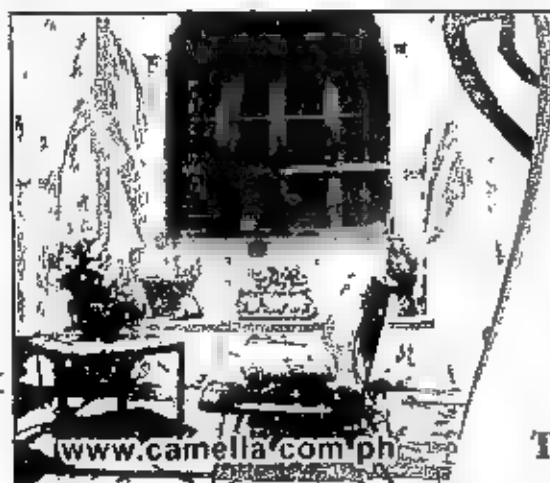
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 rejuvenate your body, broaden your mind and nourish your soul

6	Walking Tour of Intramuros	See Manila in a whole new light with historian Carlos Coldra	San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
13	Old Manila Walks	Join Maundy as you on a tour of the historic streets of Binondo, Manila	Secunda Church, Manila 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
20	Images of Rock at the MET Museum	A gallery tour featuring The Rock Art Images of Land, Water, Culture	Metropolitan Museum, Borjao Seminar ng Pilapil, Quezon City 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
27	Great Filipino Artists at Ayala Museum	See masterpieces of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, Fernando Zobel & Danton Domingo	Ayala Museum, Makati Park, cor. Oida Plaza Bldg, Greenbelt Park, Alabang City 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
10	Jung Seminar	Discover how powerful your mind can truly be with the Friend of Jung Society	Margot Cafe, Seminar Room, Bonifacio H. Street, Bonifacio Global City 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
17	Cemetery Tour	A spine-tingling trip with Ivan Mañalili of CM Manila Walks	Chinese La Loma Cemetery, Circulator 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
27	Tarot Card & Feng Shui Reading	Find out what your future holds	Powerbacks, Greenbelt 3 Mall 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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Meet DJ Badkiss, and find out why she's holding a CD in one hand, and a grenade in the other



The Cult of Ms BadKiss

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

THERE IS A COLLECTIVE SIGH on the dance floor, amid the live electro pulses painting the atmosphere with good vibes. A momentary, quick-as-an-eyeblink bpm shift and suddenly, the martini sippers have gulped their olives and ditched their long stemmed glasses, obeying the command of the dance hall frenetic.

Truly, transformation is the offspring of creativity. The Creator at this very moment that's bursting with ear candy flavor is DJ Badkiss, aka Cristina Bártges. The gorgeous half-Filipina, half-German Spindie-rella is herself blithely and blissfully dancing on the deck, moving to the rhythm she composes. Her energy is infectious—just ask a growing fan base of locals and expats who catch her at M Café on Friday nights, and at times on REWIRED Saturdays at Warehouse 135. It kinda helps that she's a knockout, too, as one starry-eyed Brit follower once commented, "forget God, this Goddess is a DJ!"

The uber-cool Cristina is a refreshing alternative to the cookie cutout paper dolls you see populating the city's hot spots. She's an extraordinary part of the city's multi hyphenated creative cult—she's a deejay-slash-commercial model-slash-fashion designer with her own label, die Marie. When she's not moving the needle for Elektro Disko on Friday nights, she's busy with a sewing needle creating edgy dresses and accessories for her clothing line. Here's a taste of Ms Badkiss in a recent conversation about her creative ideology.

Tell us about your label die Marie, it sounds like a killer.

die Marie simply translates to "the Marie." "Die," pronounced "Dee" is the German female article for "the." Because my name is Christina Marie and my partner Kaz (Castillo) is Marie-Louise Karen, we had Marie in common, and so Marie became an alter ego. We chose the name and already knew people would think we want to kill Marie. Especially because our logo is a little grenade. But what the hell!

How then would you describe this alter ego, Marie?

Her style is very colorful, even gaga sometimes, she's relaxed but sexy and cool. Marie is cutesie girly yet she is a punk. Marie can be radical and militant or sweet.

What are your inspirations for die Marie?

I get inspired by a lot of things. A movie, a picture, a song or a memory. The fabric itself inspires me, I see a pattern or I feel the texture and I know what I want to make out of it. That's the best way I think—sometimes you design with a particular sort of fabric in mind. I imagine Marie as a real person and ask, what are her interests? Where does she go and what does she do there? And what is she wearing while doing all that?

How would you describe your personal style? What do you think influences your personal fashion sense?

My personal style has a lot to do with comfort, so I'm in sneakers or ballet flats most of the time. I still love to wear baggy jeans, it

THE SPIN ON STYLE:
Cristina Bártges aka Ms Badkiss



makes me feel like I'm 16! Once in a while when I feel like dressing up and being a foxy lady party animal I'll enjoy wearing extra-high heels. I love mixing patterns and colors in a slightly offbeat way. I am not the type that matches everything. Too much "matchy-matchy" is boring.

What do you think of the general fashion sense of Pinays?

Most of the people here have good fashion sense but they stay in safety mode. It's a lot about more fitting in and less about standing out, conformity not individualism. I mean, how many girls in miniskirts, spaghetti top and strappy sandals will you see when you go out on a Friday night? Exactly! All of them are in fashion, they look good and well put together but basically it's the same outfit over and over and over again. And though there's nothing wrong with that, it's refreshing to see more people that were maybe less in fashion but more into their personal style.

So what would you like to see more Filipinas wear or adopt as a fashion philosophy?

I wish more people will experience that it's actually liberating to wear your heart on your sleeve, to show your environment what music you're into, what subculture you're part of, what God you believe in or generally what kind of person you are.

you're into, what subculture you're part of, what God you believe in or generally what kind of person you are. All of that can be expressed in the way you dress. It's communicative, it's open and it's honest!

How would you give girls a creative makeover?

Put on a private fashion show for yourself! Play around with whatever content of your closet. Try everything in unusual combinations, layering them, accessorizing them. You're bound to find a new Look in there somewhere! Try dressing in themes like: Today I am a warrior princess. Tomorrow I'll be a flamboyant gypsy. Or a Bandit Queen. Or a skater girl. Or a sexy Librarian. Have fun! Anything goes!

die Marie is available @ Tonic, Astoria Plaza, Escrivá Drive, Ortigas, Inoue's Closet, Archaeology Center, Power Plant, Modern Mythology, Gamboa Street (above Nail Spa), Makati. die Marie Beachwear also @ Artisan, Friday's Borscay. (No store has the same item, so better go see them all if you can.) For more info, feedback, orders e-mail to die.Marie@hotmail.com. Or visit myspace.com/diemarie

Photographer: Mary Anne Palmieri
Model: Helena Belmonte
Digital Editing: Dan Lee



PLAY, GIRL: Helena Belmonte wears die Marie





OUT OF ORDER



managed a band, influenced him a lot. He recalls, "Ako lang yata 'yung bata na punapunta sa Club Dredd at pinapapasok. Katabi ko 'yung DJ, malit pa ko nun, napapatang pa 'ko sa bar nun."

The first time Kaka played for them was on July '07. It was his very first set—11 songs in all. "Lagari 'yun, two gigs sa Benilde, and one in Nueva Ecija. Sobrang saya. It was the first time that I played where people were screaming. I will always remember that."

He shares his goal of spreading their brand of sound all over the country, to go around the Philippines before they even go abroad: "Alam mo 'yung feeling na pupunta ka sa isang lugar na sobrang togo, tapos may 3000 na tao at lahat sila alam ang kanta niyo?"

Best of the rest

Sugarfree began their journey as a post-college garage band who marveled at songs, who wanted to have a story to tell to their children—that once upon a time, they recorded a song. Obviously, they'll be telling a more complex story to their future kids.

As for the band's future, the group's planning to experiment, to fill the gaps created by the first three albums. Personally, Jal is psyched to see what's in store: "I want to destroy, create, develop myself as a person. That's the general direction of the band: Kaka's going into hip-hop, I'm trying to go back to classical and electronica, Ebe's starting his solo EP."

"After eight years, you realize that you should be humbled. 'Yung mga batang banda ngayon, maimit sila. 'We want our album out, we don't want our label meddling with our music, with our creative process.' Eight years taught us a lot—how to be patient, how to be humble. That's the most important part," Jal shares.

Meanwhile, Ebe says that at this point he wants nothing more but sleep; yet he's never going to complain. "Everything that can happen to a band happened to us. We've had a small amount of success, but more than anything, it's hardwork. When I go overboard, there are people who pull me back. We've had so many blessings, so many. I'll spend the rest of my life thanking the Lord. I'm overwhelmed."

It is Kaka though who hits the target: "This is what I want to do. Ang sarap e. Iba 'yung level na nararamdaman ko 'pag tumugtog ako. Hindi ako parang plastic a—hindi ko inisip 'yung pera. Alam mo okay naman 'yung pera, pero gusto ko lang tumugtog parati. Hindi 'yung tutugtog ka lang para matapos na. Tutugtog ka kasi ayaw mong matapos."

Far from afterthought

As I write this, I'm listening to the band's album for the nth time this week, and I realize that "Tala-arawan's" brilliance isn't apparent at first pass, but emerges with additional time and attention.

The combination of Kaka's drum patterns and Jal's swirling, colored bass lines bring Ebe's lyrics into a more affecting rock context.

The music provides a rad framework for Ebe's poetry, in which the tension between the heart and the head, between truths which can be spoken and those which cannot, lies always somewhere just beneath the surface.

Offering perhaps the purest distillation of their modern pop rock songcraft yet, Sugarfree's an ever-evolving band that could go any direction from here.

is SUGARFREE the BEST band around?

Passion plays

AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF highs and lows—of psychedelic and success varieties, Sugarfree remains unabashedly melodic, on and off stage. To say that they've been through a lot is like saying that Oasis churns out okay material. They've been through so much.

On July of '99, lead vocalist Ebe Dancel was going to give the whole band thing one last try. During his college band's final gig at Freedom Bar's Admit One, Ebe told a friend about his plan to create a new band.

Bassist Jal Yaguibao accidentally overheard him and joined in the conversation. Jal recalls, "I encountered a college band whose songs were really different for that time. The sound was more like Brit pop. It turned out to be Ebe's college band, and it turned out that he was a friend of someone I knew. And it turned out that that night, their college band was disbanding. When he told me about the new band, it was usapang party—sige gawin natin ito! It was very spontaneous. That's when the band started. It didn't have a name yet. Our first gig was on Aug. 28, 1999 in Baguio. We had a three-song repertoire, and there were three guys in the audience."

Mitch Singson hopped in to play drums and the band went on to record their demo, spending 18K straight out of their own pockets. It was going to be his last chance, so Ebe gave it all. A few days after they finished the demo, he handed a copy to Mylene Academia who was with NU back then. For some reason, it landed on the hands of Francis Brew, who played their first single "Telepono" on air. Ebe credits the two for being "responsible for our career as a band."

Studio system

In 2001, they signed up with Viva Records, who was then handling six other bands including Rivermaya. After a two-year powwow of broken promises, there was still no debut album. Ebe decided to face a big Viva executive.

"So where's the album? I asked. 'It's coming, it's coming, don't worry,' he said. I quit my day job as a writer for "Eat Bulaga" before we started recording. A week after recording started, pinatugil kami ng Viva. I was, grabe, it was so hard to take. 'We have to prioritize Rivermaya,' they told me. I understand that they will always be the bigger band, that it was a business decision. Tinanggap ko kahit masakit sa loob ko."

Two years later, ayaw pa rin nila ilabas ang album. Viva told me, 'I'll be upfront with you. Ilabas natin ang album niyo ngayon, 'di kayo bebenta.' So sabi ko, so paano? Can I walk?"

The beginnings of the wave

Rivermaya's ex-vocalist Rico Blanco was also part of the picture. Immediately after hearing the band's demo, he wanted in. He played guitars for Sugarfree until he got preoccupied with his band's new album, "Tuloy ang Ligaya."

By mid 2002, Sugarfree finished recording through the help of sound engineer Angee Razul, who fell in love with the songs and didn't want to throw whatever they've started.

EMI dugged the 12 songs, which were all in Filipino. Amid the risk of signing up a band whose sound was unclassifiable during that time, they bravely put the album "Sa Wakas" out in the market in January of '03.

During its launch, the album sold out in an impressive 11 minutes. Looking back, it was no big surprise as "Sa Wakas" offered a warmth and humanism all its own, marked by intimacy, giddy playfulness and quiet passion.

"Kinagat kami ng tao, nagpantahan sa mga gigs namin. Napupuno na namin ang '70s Bistro," Ebe shares. Aside from a fast-growing fan base, rock world's dictator NU 107 honored the band with the Best New Artist and the Album of the Year during its 2003 Rock Awards.

Who are we?

On July 2004, Sugarfree came out with their follow-up album, "Dramachine." Sur-



prisingly, their first single "Sinta" didn't do very well. Ebe felt disheartened and didn't want to continue anymore, but EMI wanted to give it another shot with the song, "Hari ng Sablay."

The band, Ebe in particular, wasn't very happy. "Nilabas nila ang 'Hari ng Sablay' against my wishes kasi ayoko—it's a fun song, but it wasn't Sugarfree. Early days namin, emo kami e. Malulungkot lahat."

The single came out and made the band a phenomenon. They started getting gigs in places they've never heard of before, with 5,000-7,000 people singing along to their tunes—a big leap compared to the hundred that they commanded before.

The three guys were very overwhelmed, and started to feel the pressure to deliver, to be where their fans wanted them to be.

They never saw it coming. At some point, they were playing "Hari" five times a day.

"Nagka-strain mga personal relationship namin. Away bata lang before but this was different. Mitch couldn't see his son. Jal was studying, teaching, playing in the band—grabe. Ako rin naging mainitin ang ulo dahil sa pagod," Ebe shares.

Deal with it

Right from the very beginning, all they wanted was to release an album, and that was it.

"Isang pitik na lang, platinum na ang album then. No one was prepared. We were still stuck in the notion na if we release an album, hindi kami bebenta."

The band found it hard to play. They weren't expecting the fame so they weren't able to deal with it properly.

And they were what, late twenties? The three were at a point in their lives when they wanted to do so many things, but couldn't because they were in the band.

Jal shares, "Every time we became selfish, we failed not just the band, but the people. Every time we brought our personal issues on stage, we failed. Sugarfree is bigger than the three of us. You'll be surprised how many people approach us and say, 'Nung mag-usa ako sa bahay at nalulungkot ako, 'yung album niyo ang naging kaibigan ako.'"

"When you become too myopic, having that 'this is what we do, this is what to play' mindset, kawawa ka naman."

What kept them going were the people that still wanted to see them play, their solid, active fan base, the listeners.

Comfort in pain

Writing for their upcoming third album was an ordeal for Ebe, who kept on thinking about the "expectations that I will never be able to meet."

His parents came to the rescue. "Sabí nila, 'You have something that many people will never have, and you just throw it away? You just wasted your life.' Nagising ako."

He moved out of the house to write songs for the new album. At that point, Mitch suddenly decided to quit the band so he could spend time with his kid. "I love my kid, and he's growing up and I'm not there for him," he says.

Ebe recalls, "I didn't want him to go. I told him, Mitch, ito na 'yun, this is what we worked so hard for. He goes, 'I can't live without my kid.' Ako naman I can't live without the band, so it broke my heart."

On the other hand, Jal wanted to go to law school. Good thing his replacement backed out during the last minute. After hearing the songs Ebe wrote for the new album, Jal decided to stay.

Jal shares, "When you put up a band, the first challenge is to find that compromise. You have to make the band work. You can't be in a band and have an attitude of a solo performer. You have to restrain yourself. Make the song work. Make the band work. Marami kaming kiss and make-up sessions, bull sessions for eight years. Maraming times na stressful siya, pero marami rin

Photos by PONG IGNACIO
Special thanks to
Joni Fontanilla,
TRICI NICOLAS,
BIANCA FRANCISCO and
LEN FRANCISCO

Behind Sugarfree's sleeper anthems lie a real energy, vibrancy and a healthy dose of dramachine. This is their story



SWEETEEET. The band has an assortment of awesome music videos—thanks to some of the finest directors in the country today including RA Rivera ("Dear Kuya"), Marie Jamora ("Kung Ayaw Mo Na Sa Akin"), Quark Henares ("Huwag Ka Nang Umiyak") and "Mariposa"), and Treb Monteras ("Tulog Na").

Mas mahabang sausage, mas busog ka sa sarap.





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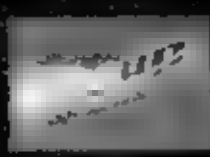
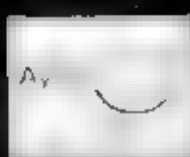


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Four continents. Over 50,000 kilometers. 20 feisty contenders. With two Pinoy teams in the running. The Amazing Race Asia 2 promises to be a no-holds-barred scramble to the finish line. We reveal the racers, and the controversial tandem that will get everyone talking.

LOST IN TRANSIT

Paolo R. Reyes

THERE WE WERE, 35,000 feet above the air, aboard a bumpy flight bound for Singapore, when the throaty cockpit voice of Captain Culan-culan came crackling through the speakers: "Passengers please fasten your seatbelts, we are about to make our final descent."

As we returned our seats to the upright position, while doled-up attendants wheeled away Duty Free carts containing tins of tobacco (or "kow-bay-ko," as the BA system so eloquently pronounced) and handsome boxes of hard liquor, it was easy to imagine how the very novelty of travel—the unfamiliar scent of foreign soil, the labyrinth of alien streets, the indecipherable accents of strangers—can easily be lost on those preoccupied with way more important things.

Like a fiercely competitive race around the world. Or earning a ticket to early retirementville by way of a brag-worthy cash prize.

Be it for \$100,000 (or P5 million, more or less) or simply for the glory of being crowned as the winners of "The Amazing Race Asia," no amount of anxiety-abating downers will ever dampen the adrenaline of those taking part in the riveting, Emmy Award-winning reality TV series.

Last week, during a star-spangled bash at the Indochine Forbidden City in Clark Quay, action-adventure channel AXN finally unveiled the spanking new lineup of teams that will be slugging it out in the "The Amazing Race Asia 2."

With a television-friendly roster that includes a hearing-impaired Singaporean gym junkie, estranged siblings from Japan, desperate housewives (and ex-dancers) from Malaysia, hot young starlets from Hong Kong, and two Pinoy teams (including the brawny pair of Marc Nelson and Rowison Fernandez), the second season promises to be an intense, no-holds-barred scramble to the finish line.

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A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

GINAWA RIN NILA? GOD, HOW COULD THEY? SOBRA NA SILA!

ANYTIME, BABABA ANG WARRANT OF ARREST NI ARVIN!

HINDI NA TAYO MINOR DE EDAD... MA-HAHARAP NA-TIN SILA SA COURT.

NO? KAMI MUNA! BAGO NILA MAGAWA ANG GANON SA IYO, ARVIN! PUPUNTAHAN KO SILA!

JENNY!

PABAYAAN MO... TIYAK, IKO-CONFRONT NIYA PARENTS NIYA! KUNDI, TAGILID KA PARE.

'BUTI UMUWI KA, JENNY.

TO BE CONTINUED

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Bulfighter

8 Of the Far East

15 1970 John Wayne movie

16 Ballplayer Jose

17 Without anger

18 Multi-screen

19 Roman salad?

21 Slingshot

26 Affectionate

31 Dramatic musical composition

32 Inspire to love

33 XIX

34 Real property?

35 Abraham Lincoln's boy

36 Rummy game

37 Danish port

41 Certain Roman

46 Yet to be cut

47 Yet to be pressed

48 Took some time off

50 Go by

52 Bands of a

56 Final stage of play

62 Benzene

63 Guayaquil's country

64 Golf course

65 Kind of diver

DOWN

1 Non-invasive diagnostic

2 Jordan's nickname

3 Little piggy

4 Everything

5 Fawn's mother

6 Vague

7 Romberg operetta

8 Dramatic divisions

9 Name on many cakes

10 Shacked

11 Small Egyptian viper

12 Part of AT&T

13 Hot diamonds

14 Courtesy of "Friends"

20 Type of jacket or collar

21 Outline

22 Daughter of King Minos

23 Two-seaters

24 Gobbled up

25 Betting pool

27 Tank

28 John Lennon classic

29 Observes

30 Missile that's thrown

38 NIMBY part

39 Honey

40 Lengthwise

41 Nudge

42 Licorice-like flavoring

43 Failure to speak out

44 Nest-egg initials

45 Chaney of "The Wolf Man"

51 Tarzan's foster parents

52 Craze

53 John Lennon's Yoko

54 Manipulate fraudulently

55 Wing of a building

57 Immediately owed

58 Mountain pass

59 Classified items

60 Cohort of Shemp

61 Stretch of time

By Tom Pruett
Chicago, IL

10/6/07

Friday's Puzzle Solved

OFFER LADLE CPA
SOLSE SMILE OHS
TURKEY DIVAN HAP
LOIRE DIN RARE
GARMENT DOVEBAR
GREG UTE AD OS
ADS PAPA BLT THE
ROB NHOOD
ENSILE TEAR JUMP
NO SY KOS AS A
DUCKPIN SOLVENT
IRKS MOA WELD
N P FALCONCREST
GSA OGLE ISSEI
SHY PJOSE TESTS

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10/6/07

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

KEZANGAN UMANGAL NA TAYO!

BAKIT?

PURD KURAKOT ANG ISSUES NGAYON!

PERO...

ANG KURAKOT SA KALIKASAN NOON PA!

TIGILAN NA!

PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR

PUSPUSAN NA ANG PASPO- PROMOTE NG MEDICAL TOURISM SA BANGSA

MAS MURA NGA NAMAN ANG PASPA-GANDA DITO.

SA SOBRANG MURA NGA NO PASPAPA-RETOKE E MAGKASING-GANDA NA YUNG MGA BADING AT MGA TUNAY NA BABAE

LAHAT SILA, NAKA-BREAST IMPLANTS!

PA'NO?

PAG PININDOT MO'YUNG PEKE E MAY TUTUNOG NA...

WOHI!

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

MGA ANAK, LUBAS AKONG NASAKTAN SA RACIAL SLUR NI SENADOR MIRAFLORES!

CHINESE ANG YUMAG NINYONG INA, MAY DUGO KAYANG CHINESE? NASAKTAN DIN BA-KAYO MGA ANAK?

KAYA NGA PO NAYAYS KO NA PO ITONG VISA KO SA U.S.?

AKO PO SA CANADA!

AKO PO SA AUSTRALIA!

AKO PO SA U.K.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

CONSCIENCE, DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF FOLLOWING ME ALL DAY? TO THINK, I DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO YOU MUCH.

I DO FEEL TAKEN FOR GRANTED AT TIMES. BUT WHAT CAN I DO?

YOU CAN ALWAYS GET ANOTHER JOB WOULDN'T YOU LIKE THAT?

WELL, COME TO THINK OF IT, I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A NERVE ENDING.

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

WUHEHE! AND BA GINAGAWA MO BORED NA MGA STUDYANTE SA KLASA MO?

NO? UHM, UH... AND...

THE TECHNIQUE NA KOEN

PAG ITO LATE DUMATING, NINIT KA AGAD.

NO! TAYO! UMABAS NA NA LATE NA NA HINDI NA KITA STUPID!

TA'S BAWATAN MO NG PAMAMAGSING NA

PRESENSE NA CLASS, NA MATURAL NA KASING PATAH YUNG STUDYANTE KONG JUAN BU

WATSEMPRE

UN CLASSMATE, AND NG GWA

APAAA

WARRAH! AT PATA-TRAHAN YUNG ISANG NA-LATE NA YUNG BAWATAN NGA NEVER WILL BE OR SHE BE LATE AGAIN!

KEVADO

O NA JUTING TUD BIPS WITH ONE STONE KAPAG

ASTED

Answer to previous puzzle

4 7 3 2 5 8 1 9
8 1 9 6 7 4 2 5 3
3 2 5 8 1 9 7 4 6
4 7 1 5 9 2 6 3 8
9 5 6 1 3 8 4 7 2
2 8 3 7 4 6 1 9 5
1 9 2 4 6 3 5 8 7
7 3 8 2 5 1 9 6 4
5 6 4 9 8 7 3 2 1

Difficulty Level: 4.000

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

10/06

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BURP

GARFIELD!

NOBODY HERE BUT US CRUMBS

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are dynamic and flirtatious. Adventure always attracts you. Not only do you reach out for what you want in life, you also want to improve the lives of those around you. You're a romantic and will give everything for love. You're a great entertainer and enjoy popularity with others. In the year ahead, you will learn or study something very valuable.

Birthdate of: Elizabeth Shue, actress; Thor Heyerdahl, Norwegian adventurer; Jeremy Sisto, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're entering a period for several years when you will be working hard. However, all this hard work will pay off with rewards.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Many of you are secretly wondering what you want to be when you grow up (regardless of how old you are now). It's time for you to sing your song!

GEEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Now more than ever, you want to be able to establish a strong base for yourself. You need a home that is a solid anchor for you in the world.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The winds of change are starting to blow. Many of you will have residential moves or job changes in the next few years. It's time to empty out some cupboards.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Because of shifting situations in your life, you're starting to think about your values and what it is that really matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're setting off on a whole new cycle where you will reinvent yourself in the next seven years. That's why some of you are in a new carbox.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Many of you will start to dismantle what you created in the past 12 to 14 years. It's time to start to let go of people, places and possessions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're learning how to take your individual power and work with others in group situations. This is not always easy. It means you can't always call the shots.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're approaching a time of harvest. You will soon see what is working and what is not. Now is the time to benefit from the seeds you've been planting for the past decade.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're entering a time of preparation. Many of you will go back to school or get extra training in something. You know you're going places!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Income and input from others might diminish in the next few years. This simply means you have to show the world that you can stand on your own two feet.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Relationships will be challenging in the next few years. Those that are meant to last will endure. Those that are meant to end will do



On your mark ...

From page D1

Along the way, of course, expect your weekly dose of bratty tantrums, testosterone-induced clashes, and some serious flirting between the contestants.

"The teams in the second season picked themselves, they beat out 2,500 applications from all around Asia," shared Michael McKay, the show's executive producer and director, at Café del Mar in Siloso Beach, Sentosa. "In the first season, everyone was quite nice to each other. But this time around, the competition is much more intense. Any one of them could win."

"To be honest, out of the Philippines alone, we could have picked seven teams," McKay added. "They were all knockouts. Marc and Rovilson, hands down, had the

best audition video we've ever seen. It was the same for [the other Filipino team] Terri and Henry Reed. The first 10 seconds of their video was already off the charts. I don't know what it is about the Philippines, they're some sort of reality TV factory!"

Full of tricky Road Blocks and deceptive Detours, "The Amazing Race Asia 2" is tipped to be another adrenaline-fueled odyssey through the heart of adventure. Witness these 10 feisty teams battle it out over language barriers and time constraints as they race through a multi-country arena spanning Asia and beyond.

Will the obstacles be too hot to handle? Or will they prevail upon the final Pit Stop, proud and patriotic, as the winners of the world's most celebrated reality-adventure show? Tune in to AXN this November.



KINARIYOSIH & BRETT MONEY

Connecting flight: Dating for two years
Country of origin: Indonesia

Declaration form: Based in Jakarta, these good-looking lovers have been described as "glamorous" and "beautiful." 28-year-old model Kinariyosih (like Sting or Sitti, she has no last name) is a rising actress, while 26-year-old Brett (her boyfriend of two years) is a physiotherapist.



MARC NELSON & HOVI FERNANDEZ

Connecting flight: Best Buddies

Country of origin: Philippines

Declaration form: They lovingly slam each other with put downs and insults all in the name of friendship. Both love a good laugh and share an equally wicked sense of humor. Though they both have day jobs as TV hosts, there is a slight difference. "I've got hair," Marc shares.



PAULA TAYLOR & NATASHIA NIMM

Connecting flight: Childhood Friends

Country of origin: Thailand

Declaration form: Both 24, childhood BFFs Paula and Taylor are a sight for sore eyes. Paula works as a VJ and movie actress in Bangkok. Natashia, a self-described "single girl" who likes "playing the field," works for a mining company where she deals with, uh, explosives.

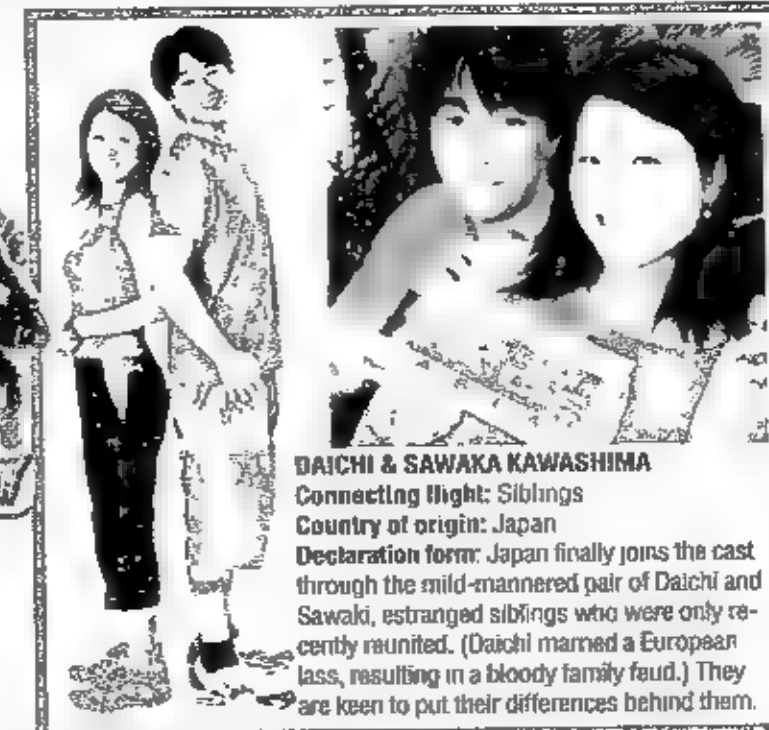


TERRI & HENRY REED

Connecting flight: Married for 13 years

Country of origin: Philippines

Declaration form: Based in Cavite, the couple describes themselves as "borderline dysfunctional." They talk, then argue, then smile, laugh, and talk, then argue again. "We plan to destroy our competitors by any legal means necessary," Henry quips like a true US Navy officer.



DAICHI & SAWAKA KAWASHIMA

Connecting flight: Siblings

Country of origin: Japan

Declaration form: Japan finally joins the cast through the mild-mannered pair of Daichi and Sawaka, estranged siblings who were only recently reunited. (Daichi married a European lass, resulting in a bloody family feud.) They are keen to put their differences behind them.



COLLIN LOW & ADRIAN YAP

Connecting flight: Gym Buddies

Country of origin: Singapore

Declaration form: Having met at the gym only a few months before the race, Collin and Adrian became fast friends thanks to their passion for fitness. But they hold a secret: 27-year-old Adrian is deaf and relies on sign language to communicate with his partner.



AURELIA CHENG & SOPHIE CHENAT

Connecting flight: Ex-housemates

Country of origin: Hong Kong

Declaration form: Aurelia is a bubbly and outgoing model. Sophie is a serious and reflective writer. A love-hate relationship, by all accounts. Aurelia notes that Sophie is the "neatest person I ever met," while she is the messiest person Sophie has ever come across. "Nuff said."



DIANE DOUGLAS & ANN TAN

Connecting flight: Dancing Mums

Country of origin: Malaysia

Declaration form: They are the dancing, desperate housewives of Malaysia—desperate for a stress-free vacation away from their husbands and children, that is. Ann, 40, and Diane, 33, are long-time dance buddies that enjoy moving their feet to hip-hop and funk jazz.



MONICA LO & EDWIN LO

Connecting flight: Dating for 10 years

Country of origin: Hong Kong

Declaration form: These high school sweethearts like to call themselves the "Rob and Amber" of the race. Edwin, 26, is an event organizer, while Monica, 28, is a former beauty queen and a popular actress with 17 Hong Kong movies and a slew of TV dramas under her belt.



VANESSA & PAMELA CHONG

Connecting flight: Sisters

Country of origin: Malaysia

Declaration form: These fetching Eurasian siblings are more than meets the eye. Vanessa is an artist manager. Pamela is a professional dancer. They have perfected an evil laugh, which—when coupled with their identical voices—sounds freaky when they laugh in unison.



Fire and Ice

Move over Marc and Rovi. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reed—the slick, fast-talking contenders from Cavite—are about to give you a run for your race money.

By Paolo R. Reyes

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN as "Team Africa" by one of the clueless Malaysian contestants, but retired US Navy senior officer Henry Reed, 48, and his strong-willed Filipina wife of 13 years, Terri, 44, are as Pinoy as they come—minus the modest, passive-aggressive personality, that is.

Super sat down with the outspoken husband-wife tandem and grilled them for a full disclosure. (Well, almost. We don't want them to incur the \$5 million penalty that's cemented in their contract.) One thing's for sure, these hard-nosed competitors are bound to generate some seismic shockwaves over the boob tube.

What made you decide to join the race?

Terri: It was my idea. I loved watching the show. So I asked Henry if we could. He asked me, "Give me 10 reasons why we should?" I was up till 3 a.m. thinking. Then I got out of bed, grabbed a piece of paper, and wrote down: "P5 million. P5 million. P5 million." There were 5 million reasons!

Did you have any kind of alliance with Marc and Rovi?

Terri: NO!!! No, no, no. That's all I can say. And that you're not going to be disappointed with the Philippine teams this season.

Henry: Alliances really don't work. It's such an individual thing. Unlike in "Survivor," you don't need anybody else for this game.

Did things get really nasty between the teams?

Terri: You'll have to wait and see. But it got real nasty between me and Henry.

Henry: In our normal, everyday life, we fight a lot. That is the reality of it. [laughs]

Do you think you'll be portrayed differently after the final edit?

Terri: I really don't think so. You better agree with me, Henry!

Henry: It's real fire, believe me. The only way they could change what really happened, through editing, would be to make us look boring and lovey-dovey.

Terri: I don't think they'll be able to find that kind of footage.

Henry: If they could stretch about 38 to 39 seconds of lovey-dovey moments, then hats off to them. There's too much fire there! [laughs]

What was your edge over the other teams?

Henry: I guess being mature and being together for so long. I think we're the oldest team.

Terri: Please. Don't remind them!

Henry: When I was in the military, we traveled around the world. I trusted her to read maps and give me directions. She's pretty industrious. When she's focused, nothing is going to stop her. When we were in New York, she had to get some major dental work. The doctor told her she couldn't eat meat for two weeks and she can't talk for two days. On the way out of the doctor's office, she's already yapping "take me to Sizzlers to have a steak!" She don't listen to anybody, and she's always right.

How was your marriage after the race?

Terri: Same thing. Lucky 13. But we promised each other that after 49 years of marriage, he'll have his "one minute"—a minute when he can have his peace and I cannot say a single word.

Henry: For one minute she can just shut the hell up. She can't talk to me. She can't yell at me. She's just going to leave me alone for 60 seconds. I don't think she's going to be able to do it. It ain't gonna happen! [laughs]

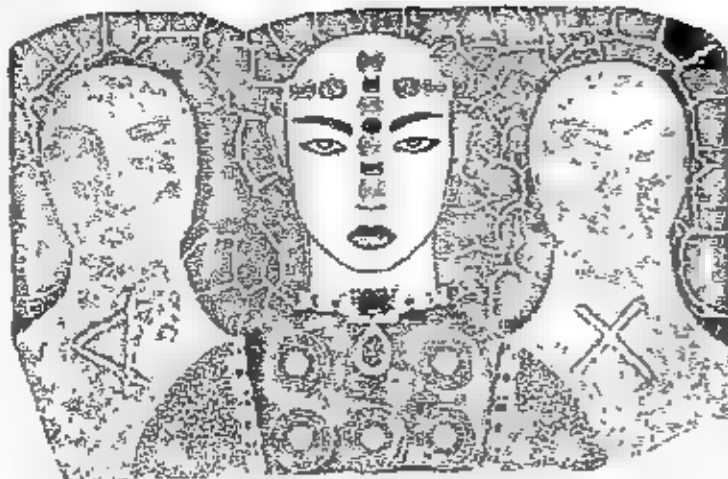
Inside the Mind of Mark Lewis Higgins

By Juana R. Manahan

THE ONCE BORING MUSEUM white walls are transformed into an ethereal cross between the Batcave and the Fortress of Solitude, nestled somewhere between Lothlorian and the hand-carved mountainside architecture of Petra. The chanting on the playing CD and the cold museum temperature keeps your step in pace, almost dictating that one must quietly glide in like riding on a cloud, or stealthily peak ahead, eyes wide open in wonderment, as one comes face to face with the staring, hypnotic, mute, bejeweled and opulently textured portraits of Mark Lewis Higgins' Diaspora.

Seamless merging

It is a similar feeling I got when I first saw the Pharaoh's treasures in Egypt. Awesome, but not at all meaning like a valley girl's Oh-some, but awesome in the dictionary sense of the word. The bright enamel-like colors, the minuteness of detail tells a lot about Mark's work ethic. After all, it took all of four years to complete these 30 pieces, painstakingly adorned with semi-precious stones, gouache, rope, fabric, 24 karat gold leaf, chalk pastel, acrylic, pulp, mica flakes. The merging of materials is seamless, so much so that it is only upon close scrutiny that one can perhaps

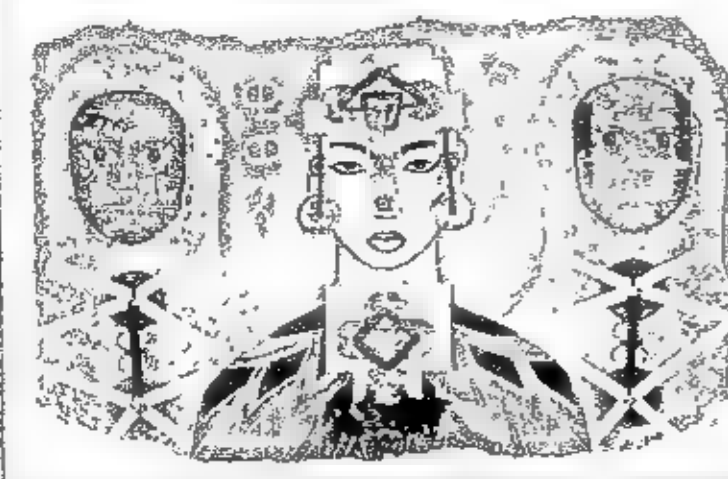


distinguish what could be a piece of fabric and what could be painted by a single-haired squirrel hair brush. (And never have I seen such fine straight neat lines!) His use of modern and traditional materials and techniques are so discerned that the works take on a patina of antiquity despite his use of art store materials.

Imagined conversation

Listening to Mark Higgins speak of the reading material that fascinates him is a passport to how his mind works. He entitled his first exhibit Invisible Cities after

Mark Higgins' imagined world of faith, magic and fantasy transform once boring museum walls



Italo Calvino's book with imagined conversations between Marco Polo and Genghis Khan, Jan Morris' insightful descriptions of Venice, the fading glory of the Ottomans, the Etruscan town of Tarquinia, and how he longs to see the 4th century mosaics of the harlot-turned-Empress Theodora in Ravenna. They all are places where decoration is of highest intricacy, where craftsmanship is fueled by faith and guarded in secrecy. To know Mark Higgins' mind and influence is to understand his art, part fantasy, part historical nerdness.

High relief

In contrast with his earlier works, "Invisible Cities" and "Tribes" some of which are exhibited in retrospect, the Diaspora works are of high relief, some of them masks. His scrolls in "Invisible Cities" are rendered flat, the faces "smokier" and more mysterious, while the icons in "Tribes" derive their mystery from the intense eyes peering out of the golden opulence of the veiled faces. Unlike the Diaspora collection which is framed in plexi glass, Higgins' earlier works are in frames ornamented with Oriental squiggles, or tabernacle frames of Byzantine, Renaissance or Gothic influence. Prevalent in all his works are symbols and hieroglyphic-like writing, like secret codes from a world lost.

Transformed space

I was reminded that Mark designed The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe which I had seen as a young girl. I do remember the magic of the theater, the richness of the costumes under the lights, and the spiritual theme of C.S. Lewis' book set to music. It was faith and magic. The characters were not simply lions and tigers and bears, but magical creatures all on their own. Then also, I see the influence of Mark's mother's haute couture gowns in some of his work. Some of the gowns which belong to my grandmother I had tried on when I played dress-up as a child. That was fantasy. And here in the transformed space, it is easy to imagine all that together: Faith, magic and fantasy. An imagined world. It would be nice to linger a bit longer. *With S. Di Luce*



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Text and photos
by Katrina A. Holigores

WHEN IN ROME, DO as the Romans do, but I find myself in Venice, the "sinking city" as it has been snidely described. After the initial shock of the exorbitant prices of so-so food and accommodations (compared to the Tuscan and Umbrian regions) I decided to put my remaining euros to good use.

Call it good timing but I had planned ahead to take advantage of the 52. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte or the 52nd International Art Exhibition. This exposition was part of la Biennale di Venezia and is held every two years, (but it didn't stop at art, you could go for film, architecture and music among others)

I decided with my tight schedule to whittle it down to the contemporary art displays held at the Giardini della Biennale and at Arsenale. I dragged some of my friends along, although they did insist that they were open to something different. We hopped on a water taxi for a 15-minute ride from the center of Venice to our first stop, Arsenale.

Army of Artists

I took a quick glance at the website (www.labiennale.org) while still in Manila and the whole exhibit got me excited as it promised to present the work of about a hundred artists from all over the world. Most of them had produced original works of art that would be displayed solely for the Biennale. Installation art, short films, sculptures, paintings, you name it—would probably not be seen ever again. So "Think with the Senses—Feel with the Mind. Art in the Present Tense."—read: the name of the whole exposition was going to be my next investment.

Robert Storr, the exposition's director, was quoted as saying "This Exposition is not based on an all-encompassing ideological or theoretical proposal. Rather, it is founded on a basic attitude towards art, aimed at supposing that the analytical di-

ART/ E3



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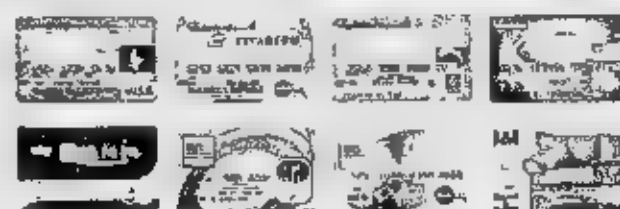
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SHANGRI-LA'S MACTAN RESORT AND SPA, Cebu announces the official opening of The Shangri-La Marine Sanctuary on Sept. 1. Formally established by the Lapu-Lapu City Council, who filed it under City Ordinance 425-B-2006 on Nov. 26, 2006, the sanctuary spans five hectares from the resort's beach-front.

The Shangri-La Marine Sanctuary Stewardship Group is composed of Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu; Scooty's Action Sports Network & Dive Centre; and Amores Charities Inc, who share the responsibility of protecting Mactan, Cebu's fragile coral reefs. The agreement grants the stewardship group 15 years of stewardship rights and obligations for the sanctuary's management.

"This partnership between Shangri-La's



US Ambassador Kristie Kenney signed the ceremonial buoy during the launch of the Shangri-La Marine Sanctuary last February. With her are Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa general manager Timothy Wright (second from left), Lapu-Lapu City First Lady Paz Radaza, Lory Tan of WWF and City Administrator Teodoro Ybanez.



The Shangri-La Marine Sanctuary opens

Marine Sanctuary Stewardship Group and the City of Lapu-Lapu strengthens our mutual commitment as environmental stewards to ensure the safety and sustainability of our waters," said Timothy Wright, general manager of Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa, Cebu. "We are fully committed to helping protect and preserve the environment, and it is our belief that responsibility lies not just in offering excellent quality of service-related products, but more so in being good, proactive stewards of the very environment in which we operate."

On Feb. 12, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney officially launched the Shangri-La Marine Sanctuary project, along with guest of honor, noted biologist and television celebrity, professor David Bellamy. Ambassador Kenney, together with Timothy Wright, Lapu-Lapu

City first lady, Paz Radaza, and WWF-Philippines (World Wildlife Fund) president, Lory Tan, signed a ceremonial buoy which was then cast to the shore of the marine sanctuary.

After the ceremonial signing, the sanctuary was closed off for six months to allow the corals time to recover, and for schools of fish to "breathe" and propagate in clean water. The resort's employees and guests are encouraged to participate in future coral recovery programs and monthly sanctuary cleaning, in which staff who have diving licenses will remove litter from the sea bed.

Shangri-La hotels are five-star deluxe properties featuring extensive luxury facilities and services. For more information or reservations, please contact a travel professional or access the website at www.shangri-la.com.

The Malayan Plaza's October treats

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN with all treats but no tricks at The Malayan Plaza! No need to shiver in fright, just relish the thrills!

For an overnight accommodation at a one-bedroom deluxe unit at a package rate of P3,900+., enjoy the comforts of one of the country's most excellent serviced residence. Highlighting this treat is a delightful dinner for two at the Q Bistro, the Malayan Plaza's culinary showcase.

Included in this package are daily breakfast, complimentary bottled water, local newspaper and free use of swimming pool and Health Club facilities. Rates are valid for local residents and foreigners with ACR only from Oct.

15 to Nov. 30, and are subject to 10 percent service charge and prevailing government taxes. This package is not valid for group or convention bookings. Late check out is up to 4 p.m. and subject to room availability. Rooms not guaranteed shall be released after 6 p.m. on the day of expected arrival.

Located at the heart of the Ortigas Commercial District, The Malayan Plaza offers furnished units that easily combine aesthetic values, comfort and functionality.

For reservations or more information, contact The Malayan Plaza at (02)706-0055, or e-mail sales@quantumsuites.com or log on to their website at www.themalayanplaza.com.



INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA WELCOMES AN AMERICAN IDOL

InterContinental Manila sales manager Janice Almirante (left) and marketing services manager Francis de Leon (right) welcome international artist Elliot Yamin upon his arrival at the hotel last Sept. 26. Yamin, a popular American Idol finalist and recording star, was in Manila for a series of concerts at the Ayala Malls. InterContinental Manila was home for the artist and his band during his stay in the country.

Ascott International partners with Gawad Kalinga

STATING TRUE TO THE spirit of the Ascott Heartware, Ascott International continues to exemplify its service philosophy - delivering service from the heart and going the extra mile for its residents and staff. Going beyond the walls of its properties, Ascott International has engaged in select projects designed to give back to its local community

as well. Among these endeavors is the Gawad Kalinga project which was launched in 2006. Ascott International engaged in a partnership with Gawad Kalinga's GK777, a program geared towards building 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in 7 years. The GK777 is part of Ascott International's community social responsi-

bility through its Philippine cluster comprised of Somerset Millennium, Somerset Olympia, Somerset Salcedo, and just this March 2007 - Ascott Makati.

A truly worthwhile and gratifying endeavor, Ascott International has more scheduled builds lined up in its enduring effort to touch people's lives from the heart.

San Miguel Oktoberfest at the Bellevue Manila's 20/20 Bar

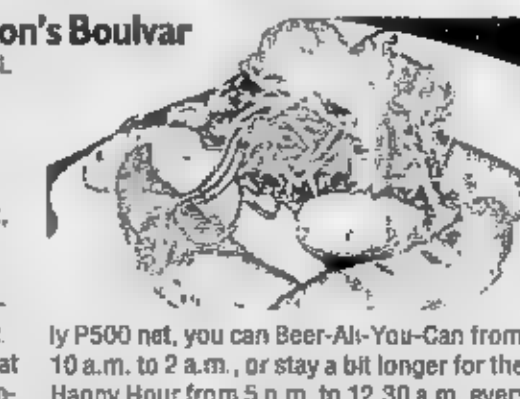
COME JOIN THE BELLEVUE AS THEY CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST WITH A WHOLE MONTH OF merrymaking and beer drinking at the 20/20 Bar, the hottest nightclub south of the Metro! Be part of the age-old tradition in praise of refreshing beer, camaraderie and good times. Join the 20/20 Oktoberfest Club for only P2,020 nett and get to drink to your heart's content with local beers for only P20 each for 30 days from your join date. For the long nights ahead in October, drink all the local beers you can for only P500. Cheers and happy Oktoberfest from the Bellevue. For inquiries, call 771-8181

The Sulo Hotel's OctoBEERfest

EXPECT SUPERB ENTERTAINMENT AND OVERFLOWING BEERS AT THE SULO HOTEL'S OCTO-BEERfest! Chill and sizzle your nights out at their Diwata Cocktail Lounge as they give a different twist to the much awaited October festival. Enjoy your all-time favorite San Miguel Beer at 50 percent off during Happy Hour from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and OctoBEERfest every Friday nights from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. while listening to the cool grooves and soulful voices of their enchanting singers like Jeli Mateo, Cindy Cuartero and Barbie Dorna. There's more, avail of the 5+1 beer in a bucket promo and enjoy your favorite pinoy pulutan for free. Plus, you may also win limited edition premium items from San Miguel Beer. It's definitely an OctoBEERfest you won't want to miss. Diwata Bar is located at the basement level of The Sulo Hotel. Open Mondays - Fridays at 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more details, visit The Sulo Hotel at Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, call (02)924-5051 or log in to the website at www.sulohotel.com.ph.

October mania at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar

BOULVAR SPORTS & MUSIC BAR IS IN FULL blast this October. With its awesome line-up of hit makers, the party is jumping every night at Boulvar. Entertainment starts at 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. at a minimum consumable of P350. While enjoying great entertainment, sample a serving of the Mixed German Sausage Platter. It's a plateful mix of Bock-wurst and Murrin Sausages, ideal for two persons and priced at P725+.. Grab it this Oct. 13 to 21 while it's hot. And finally, pair off that tasty treat with a mug of ice cold beer. For on-



ly P500 nett, you can Beer-All-You-Can from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., or stay a bit longer for the Happy Hour from 5 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. every Sunday to Thursday and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Friday and Saturday, for a buy 1 take 1 on all standard drinks. For inquiries and reservations, call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2317.

THE RICHMONDE GRILL'S DINNER EXCLUSIVES FOR OCTOBER

This October, The Richmond Grill presents an exquisite set dinner to cap off your day or start off your evening perfectly. To be offered for only P520+++ is the following: Beef Salad served on lightly fried beets chips with pesto oil, choice of Crab-stuffed Fish Timbales with Nantua Sauce and sidings of asparagus and farmer's potatoes or Grilled Lamb Chops served with green peas purée and diced rosemary potatoes, and Chocolate-Coffee Crème Brulee to top it all off. This exclusive dinner offering is served from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily with a la carte menu also available. For inquiries or reservations, call the Richmond Grill at 689-8419 or 638-7777 extension 3409. The Richmond Grill is located at the 2nd floor of The Richmond Hotel, 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.



BEERFEST AT FIESTA SAN MIGUEL

Dusit Hotel Nikko celebrates once again 'Oktoberfest' at Fiesta San Miguel from Sept. 28 to Oct. 26. Enjoy the music of some of the country's top bands as they play the best of Manila Sound. Experience great food, lots of fun and surprises in its daily games with fabulous prizes. Filipino food favorites and traditional German dishes are also offered to match your favorite fresh brewed beer. For the whole month of October, catch OJ Mariano every Mondays, Beat Struck on Tuesdays, Prime Council on Wednesdays, Bliss Acoustic every Thursdays, Ministix on Fridays and Kaboom every Saturdays. Double the fun of 'Oktoberfest' and avail of the Happy Hour from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and enjoy unlimited fresh brewed San Miguel beer for only P350 nett. Visit Fiesta San Miguel and find out why fresh is best! For inquiries, call 867-3333.

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Art overload for under P 1,000

From page E1

chotomies between perceptive and the conceptual, between thought and sentiment, pleasure and pain, intuition and critical reflection, too frequently obscure or negate the complex presence of all these factors in our experience of the world, as well as the presence of all these dimensions in the art deriving from it."

I am sure Mr. Storr is a lovely man who is fantastic at what he does, but he kinda lost me midway through his quote (and what is printed is merely a fraction of it). I decided to take my (very) basic attitude towards art and take my chances with all the above mentioned "senses" being obscured, negated, or maybe (mini-epiphany) enlightened.

Arsenale Corridor-ing

First stop was Arsenale where I was told that all you had to do was enter a long corridor and keep walking forward. Sounded simple enough, and you had to plunk down EU 15 which would get you into both Arsenale and Giardini for the major shows while the fringe shows around Venice



TAPESTRY forever and ever and ever...

were free to the public (ok I guess I didn't research well enough) but hey, I thought, that amount was what we were spending on mediocre meals during the day (or even less) so it seemed a bargain.

This "corridor" seemed to be the size of a small airport, endless and ever forward I went. What I enjoyed the most (again with my very basic art-itude) was the unpredictability of contemporary

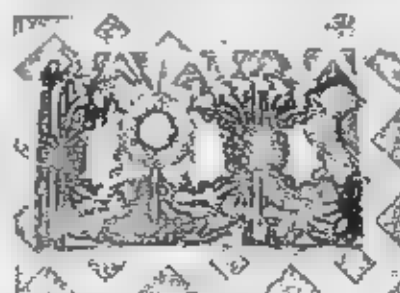
art. You either love it or hate it, but it's never boring for sure.

One particular area that I enjoyed was the Padiglione Africano (African Pavilion) and the tail end section of the corridor that had almost ceiling high tapestries made completely out of bottle caps and the other of different colored cloths "Wow," exclaimed a bystander "Some people really have a lot of time on their hands." Well, one person's "too much time" was in my opinion certainly worth mine.

The Art of Inebriation

Between art stops, lunch had to be taken into consideration. Sangria was the drink of the day served ice cold from a punch bowl and drunk out of a plastic cup. I believe I have found an almost perfect marriage between art viewing and art appreciation ... and it's alcohol. Not too much, just a little bit to fully enhance the experience as you step back from a white wall full of squiggles and gladly gurgles. "Oh, it's like the wall is talk-

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Briceño



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ing to me!" I kid you not, I actually heard that, and I can safely say sangria had everything to do with it. On my side of the slightly tipsy fence colors popped out more readily and a short animated film involving the building of a doll house that was soon destroyed by a cartoon octopus was good fun "Getting it" had never been easier.

Giardini at the 11th Hour

Soon after the buzz had faded so did my friends' enthusiasm to continue on in our art immersion. At 5:30 in the afternoon I found myself alone, walking inside a park like environment which was of course, Giardini dell Biennale (I did get lost along the way but thankfully Italians are extremely helpful) Taking in the beauty of the tall trees and the cool breeze I casually strolled into the entrance only to be told that the venue would be closed at 6 p.m.! So much for a relaxing

way to end the day.

In my best Italian I asked which were the must-sees and blushed when the person I asked answered me in perfect English. The Venezuelan and the Swiss House were definitely no-misses, and if I had time still, to take a look at the continuation of the Italian Modern Art (part one was in Arsenale) Only when I was able to fully absorb my surroundings did I regret not coming to Giardini first. They actually had one "house" to house each country that had chosen to display its artwork. Most memorable? Venezuelan Photographer Antonio Briceño's Gods of America and Switzerland's Christine Streuli's eye popping flower paintings

A thousand pesos well-spent, and although I spent much more than that just to get here, I can at least say (with some dramatics) that I got to see a hundred countries (well, nearly) in a day.



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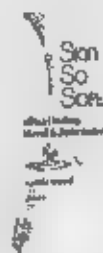
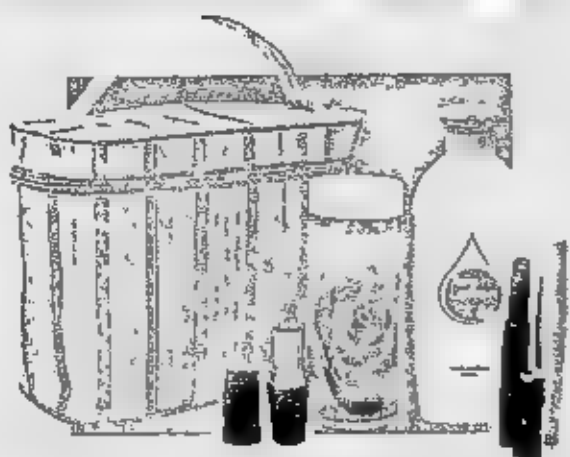


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Hollywood warms up to conservation

LOS ANGELES—FROM "GREEN carpets" at awards shows to organic fruit served to actors on sets, Hollywood is going all out to promote itself as being environmentally hip.

But, is it all just for show? No amount of public service announcements can mask the fact that movie and TV production is a gritty industrial operation, consuming enormous amounts of power.

Technology

Studios' back lots host enormous soundstages that must be air-conditioned to counter the heat produced by decades-old lighting technology.

The energy guzzling continues on the exhibition side, too, with multiplexes drawing millions of kilowatts to power old-school popcorn makers and clunky film projectors.

A two-year study released last year by the University of California at Los Angeles concluded that special effects explosions, idling vehicles and diesel generators make the entertainment industry a major Southern California polluter—second only to the oil industry.



"EVAN ALMIGHTY." The movie's producers donated money to the Conservation Fund to plant 2,000 trees.

Still, financial and public pressure have resulted in studios expanding their environmental efforts.

"Public consciousness has changed dramatically," claimed Kyle Tanger, a principal at Clear Carbon Consulting. "Actors themselves are requesting it from the studios."

Form and function merged at this year's Emmy Awards show. To symbolize its commitment to en-

ergy conservation, Fox had wanted to replace the traditional red carpet with a green one.

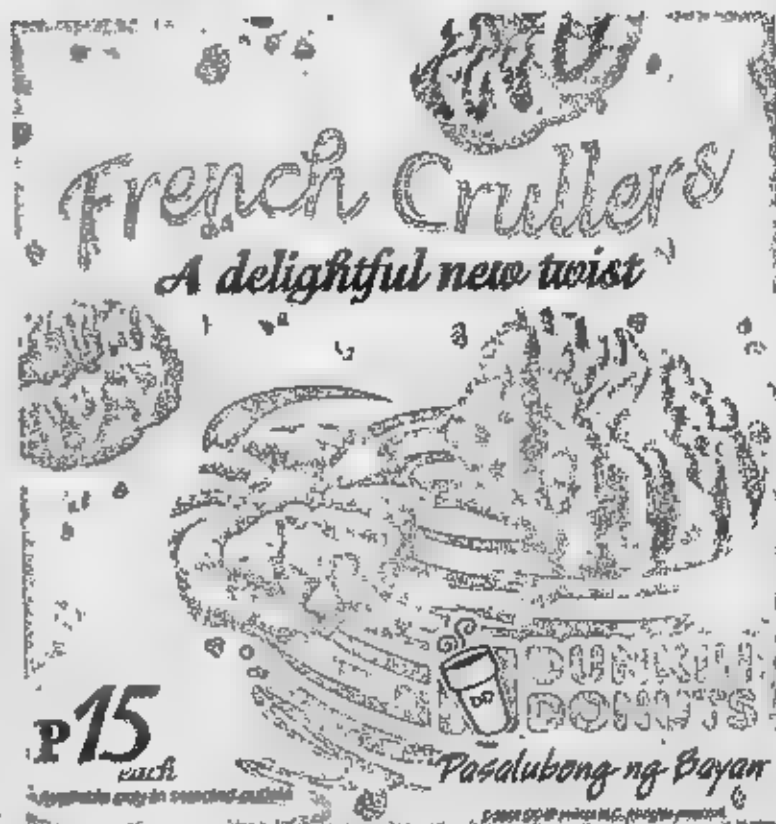
The tradition-bound Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which gives the awards, politely

said "no." But, the carpet that ended up cushioning the heels of such stars as Sally Field and America Ferrera was made from recycled plastic bottles. It was later cut into pieces and donated to local schools.

Carbon credits

One convenient yet controversial method is the purchase of carbon credits by studios to offset the greenhouse gases coming from their projects. The credits attempt to counter pollution by investing in environmentally friendly projects such as planting trees or funding wind power.

The 2004 Fox film, "The Day After Tomorrow," and last year's Al Gore documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," offset all (or some) of their pollution. This year's "Evan Almighty" donated money to the Conservation Fund to plant 2,000 trees—enough to "zero out" the greenhouse gases produced. AP



Weinsteins launch \$285M Asian film fund

HONG KONG—HOLLYWOOD producers Bob and Harvey Weinstein said recently they have launched a \$285-million movie fund that will invest in Asian-themed projects.

One of the projects will be an action film about the Chinese folk heroine, Hua Mulan, and another a remake of the 1954 Akira Kurosawa classic, "The Seven Samurai." New York-based The Weinstein Co. announced in a statement.

Projects

Chinese media reported earlier that Zhang Ziyi has signed on for the two projects.

The movie company founded by the Weinstein brothers also said it has invested in "The Forbidden Kingdom," the first movie featuring both Jackie Chan and Jet Li, which is currently filming in China.

The Weinstein Co. said it hopes to take advantage of lower costs by shooting in Asia, while adding

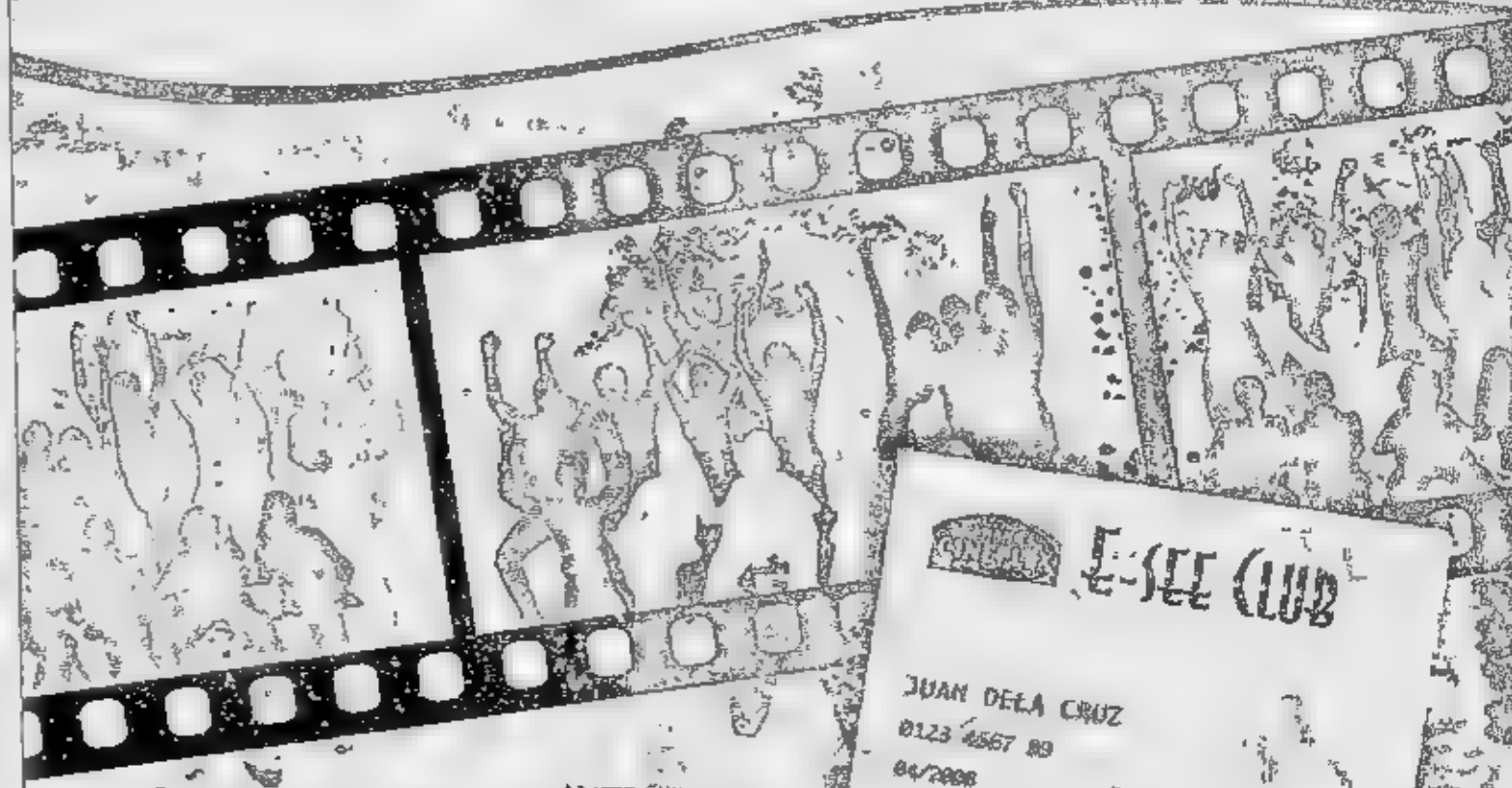
a "Western sensibility" to produce movies that appeal to both Asian and Western markets.

It said the Asian film fund aims to either produce or buy the rights to 21 movie projects and 10 straight-to-video productions that will be released through its Dragon Dynasty label, which director Quentin Tarantino will help manage. Tarantino is known for his interest in Hong Kong films.

Other Asian projects include an untitled movie starring Thai action star, Tony Jaa, "Shanghai," an action movie about an American who investigates his friend's death in World War II-era, Japanese-occupied Shanghai and three other action films made by "24's" producer Tony Krantz and Hong Kong director Andrew Lau.

The Weinstein Co. said it will co-release "The Forbidden Kingdom" with Lionsgate in the US, Britain, Spain, France and Latin America. AP

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- ✓ Online Bulletins

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA	
1 NO RESERVATION - THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 EVENING 11:55 2:30 5:05 7:40 10:00	8 indieSine: TUKSO 1:45 3:30 5:15 7:00 8:45
4 WEDDING DAZE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
5 DECEMBER BOYS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	10 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

film by Dennis Marasigan

CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner
Best Screenplay

The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

showing at
Robinsons Movieworld
OCTOBER 03 to 09

ERMITA	
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	6 WEDDING DAZE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
3 DECEMBER BOYS 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 NO RESERVATION 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	

exclusive screening

Robinsons Movieworld ERMITA
October 03 to 09

"Ang Lalake sa Parola" offers a haunting yet insightful glimpse into one man's struggle to discover his true self in a world caught between fantasy and reality. In the midst of a conservative rural community, he must choose between being straight or coming out - and ultimately discovers that truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

MTRCB Rating R18

METRO EAST	
1 WEDDING DAZE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10	5 ROGUE ASSASSIN 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
2 NO RESERVATION 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00	6 THE BRAVE ONE 1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00	7 RESIDENT EVIL 3 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	8 SHOOT 'EM UP 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

NOVALICHES	
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 2 NO RESERVATION	3 SHOOT 'EM UP 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

PIONEER	
1 WEDDING DAZE 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:45
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05	4 DECEMBER BOYS 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

STA. ROSA	
1 THE HOST 2 SKINWALKERS 3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 4 PLANET TERROR	1 NANCY DREW 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 BRATZ 4 SHOOT 'EM UP

DASMARINAS	
1 HAIRSPRAY 2 THE HOST 3 RESIDENT EVIL 3 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 2 BRATZ 3 SHOOT 'EM UP 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU

ANGELES	
1 THE HOST 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 BRATZ 4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2 DON'T LOOK BACK 3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS	
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 2 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 3 BRATZ	4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 5 RUSH HOUR 3 6 THE HOST

BAGOLOD	
1 THE LAST LEGION 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 ROGUE ASSASSIN 4 THE BRAVE ONE 5 STOMP the YARD 6 DISTURBIA	1 ROGUE ASSASSIN 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 4 NANCY DREW 5 BRATZ 6 DAGYANG

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 2000	
1 DECEMBER BOYS 2 NO RESERVATIONS 3 CHUCK & LARRY 4 WEDDING DAZE	1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3 MOST BRATZ 4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

CINEMA 2000	
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 2 NO RESERVATIONS 3 CHUCK & LARRY	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2 SHOOT 'EM UP

small	
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 3	1 EVENING 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 3

metropolis	
1 DON'T LOOK BACK 2 3 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 CINEMA 2000 2 I KNOW WHO KILL ME 3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

THEATRES	
1 SHOOT 'EM UP 2 3 4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	1 CINEMA 2000 Pavilion Mall 2 RESERVED 3 RESERVED 4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2 3 4 RESERVED	1 CINEMA 2000 Cinemagix 2 SHOOT 'EM UP 3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

FIVEFEST	
1 CHUCK & LARRY 2 RESIDENT EVIL 3 3 NO RESERVATIONS 4 DECEMBER BOYS 5 WEDDING DAZE 6 RESIDENT EVIL 3	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2 3 4 5 6

Blue Wave	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2 ROGUE ASSASSIN 3 4	1 Lianas Cinema 2 PLEASE CALL 3 4

SUPER CINERAMA	
1 RESERVED 2 RESERVED 3 RESERVED 4 RESIDENT EVIL 3	1 BRATZ 2 NANCY DREW 3 BRATZ 4 SHOOT 'EM UP

BAGUIO	
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2 3 4	1 BEMBA Cinema 2 PLEASE CALL 3 4

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

LOTUS POND

Skin care

I HAVE A CHINESE FRIEND WHO'S ALWAYS concerned about her skin. One time, she went through a facial treatment that cost her thousands of pesos. Unfortunately, she developed severe

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

SKIN/F3

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Eastwood City's Pet Blessing

In Honor of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 7, 2007
4:30 PM, Eastwood Central Plaza

PROGRAMME

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- 5:00 PM - Special Mass for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals
- 6:00 PM Pet Blessing

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CHUCK & LARRY	EVENING
2:15, 8:20 R-13	5:50, 11:10 PG-13

RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:35, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 R-13

DECEMBER BOYS
3:50, 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 G

WEDDING DAZE
3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 DECEMBER BOYS MTRCB PG-13 12:20 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	3 CHUCK & LARRY MTRCB R-13 11:30
2 NO RESERVATIONS 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:50	4 WEDDING DAZE MTRCB GP 2:15, 4:35, 6:55 9:15

PREMIER THEATRE EVENING (PG-13) 2:00, 10:00pm / RESIDENT EVIL 3 (R-13) 5:10

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5th Australian Film Festival

October 3-7, 2007

Shang Cineplex Cinema 3

12 AUSTRALIAN FILMS SELECTION

October 3 (Wednesday)	
Love Serenade	4:00 pm
Harvie Krumpet (Short film)	7:00 pm
Look Both Ways	7:00 pm
Cracker Bag (Short film)	9:00 pm
Floating Life	9:00 pm
October 4 (Thursday)	
Australian Rules	4:00 pm
Breathe (Short film)	7:00 pm
Caterpillar Wish	7:00 pm
Cool White (Short film)	9:00 pm
Japanese Story	9:00 pm
October 5 (Friday)	
Looking for Alibrandi	4:00 pm
Harvie Krumpet (Short film)	7:00 pm
Jindabyne	7:00 pm
Cracker Bag (Short film)	9:00 pm
Lantana	9:00 pm
October 6 (Saturday)	
Looking for Alibrandi	2:00 pm
Australian Rules	4:00 pm
Breathe (Short Film)	7:00 pm
Look Both Ways	7:00 pm
Floating Life	8:00 pm
October 7 (Sunday)	
Love Serenade	2:00 pm
Japanese Story	4:00 pm
Cool White (Short film)	7:00 pm
Caterpillar Wish	7:00 pm
Lantana	9:00 pm

ADMISSION FEE IS P50.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Shang Cineplex

Stars' comeback vehicles click with viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

ESTABLISHED FILM STARS LIKE JODIE Foster and Catherine Zeta-Jones have opted to step away from Hollywood's hectic stellar rat race.

Instead of coming up with at least one starrer a year to keep up with the competition, they're secure enough about their stellar status and loyal fans to agree to shoot a movie only when a really good script comes their way.

Of course, this laidback attitude can get pretty risky, especially when the expected hit turns out to be a no-player, like Nicole Kidman's recent experience with "Invasion."

Competitive aspect

Despite this risky state of affairs, Foster and Zeta-Jones have opted to remain cool about the competitive aspect of stardom, probably because they no longer get their major psychic satisfaction from acting.

Their families have become much more important to them, so they act in films only once every five years or so—and only when the material presented to them is so good that they can't pass it up.

Foster's new "gotta do it" film, "The Brave One," casts her in the unusual role of a female vigilante, who guns down the hoods who thrall killed the love of her life.

The project was too good to reject because it's a story about a woman's empowerment, and female stars get precious few offers to tackle challenging material like that.



FOSTER AND ZETA-JONES. No longer get their major psychic satisfaction from acting.

Versatility

Thus, Foster gives her role everything she's got, demonstrating her versatility and depth by running the gamut from joy to anger, and psyche-crunching hate.

As she goes through her character's complex journey toward acceptance and psychological liberation, she experiences searing shifts of emotion, which only an experienced thespian like Foster can vividly vivify.

Despite this thespic tour de force, however, "The Brave One" ends with a big question mark because of its controversial denouement: Foster's vigilante-executioner character goes scot free.

Is the movie taking the facile way out, or what? Viewers will have different reactions to this, depending on their perception of the proper link between law and justice.

For her part, Catherine Zeta Jones plays

a top chef in "No Reservations," which can be seen as coming from the opposite direction as Foster's starrer.

Zeta-Jones' character starts off as already empowered, having reached the top of a largely male-dominated profession. Her problem, in fact, is how to unbend, to smell the roses, to find the time and space to fall in love and trust somebody again.

More arduous

Her journey is made more arduous by the fact that the man (Aaron Eckhart) she finally loves is also a gifted chef who she initially thinks is after her job. Another complication is provided by her having to take care of her recently deceased sister's daughter.

As all these pressures pile up on her shoulders, she experiences jagged shifts of emotion, before finally arriving at a thematic equipoise that teaches viewers how empowerment and vulnerability can coexist in the same person.

The film's problem is its too easy resolution of its central character's psychological conflict. As a result, its final section feels too pat to truly galvanize viewers' empathetic involvement.

Despite this, however, the movie is a success for Zeta-Jones, who shows that she can be much more than a gorgeous star, and now possesses the maturity to play more complex roles in the future—whenever the thespic spirit moves her!

It's also a good thing that both actresses' starrers have clicked with viewers. They'll be getting more top-drawer offers as a result—and we hope it won't take them another five years before delighting us with their next starrers.

Two and a half...

From page F4

even have members who are pastors

(—We presume you mean pastors.)

Host: Congratulations for winning the dance contest!

Contestant: Thank you

Host: How did you win?

Did you have to practice in a particular way?

(An obvious question deserves an obvious answer. Well, duh, yeah!)

Host: Your detractors say that you're marrying the rich politician just for financial security. What do you want to tell them?

Guest: It's funny, that's really too fire-fetched!

(Don't fetch the fire, please.)

Host: How did you feel when you won the award?

Guest: I did not expect it, it was like divine intervention!

(We think you mean intervention—for your convenience?)

Host: How is your father?

Guest: May sakit sya sa lungs

Host: Pero, OK na sya? He's recovered?

Guest: Oo— Papa, get well soon, ha?

(He's recovered? Get well soon? —Ano ba talaga, kuya?)

Host: What is your husband's medical condition?

Guest: He's feeling better, but we were afraid at first because, with his illness, it could affect his brain.

Host: Why? What happened?

Guest: With his condition, the blood dissipates in the head

(You must mean dissipates.)

Host: What is your hope for the next generation of Filipinos?

Guest: I hope that this generation can still enjoy the ordinary pressures of everyday life!

(Enjoy the pressures? That's quite an Alpha personality trick!)

Skin...

From page F2

allergic reaction to it—the treatment damaged her skin more than it revitalized it.

While reading Jane Scrivner's book, "Water Detox," I was intrigued by its information regarding natural skin care. Some interesting points:

"Our skin mirrors our body's internal state, so

If we are tired, our skin is pale

If we are stressed out, our skin looks drained

If we are unhappy, our skin feels dull

If we eat an unhealthy diet, we see spots and coloration around the chin

If we have hormonal imbalance, we see spots and breakouts

If we don't sleep, we get puffy eyes and pale faces

If we are healthy and happy, our skin emits a rosy glow

If we are totally hydrated, our skin becomes wrinkle-free, plump, rosy and fresh."

Gifts

Getting clear and healthy skin doesn't have to be expensive or tedious. Here are some of Mother Nature's gifts for our skin.

Aloe vera softens skin and helps smoothen damage.

Avocado and its oil moisturize and supplement vitamin E.

Bananas soften. Cucumber cools, tightens and refreshes.

Carrot and its oil are good for scars and for the production of vitamin A and antioxidants.

Honey moisturizes and softens. Lemon bleaches and deodorizes.

Milk softens, smoothen and moisturizes.

Oatmeal exfoliates and provides vitamin E.
Olive oil is good for eczema, it softens, soothes and moisturizes.

Healthy diet, exercise, moderate sleep, good attitude, proper intake of water, and the use of natural skin products help make our skin healthy. Let your skin glow!

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"An amazing performance, one of the best of the year..."

"A powerful film..."

"Bale & Rodriguez are mesmerizing..."

Harsh Times

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MTRCB Rating Restricted 18 (R-18)

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in cooperation with

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Directed by Bart Glingona

September 15 to October 7, 2007

Onstage 2nd Flr. Greenbelt 1,
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For details call 887-0710 or 891-9999

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the City of Metal and

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MTRCB PG-13

NOW SHOWING!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

december boys

after that summer nothing would ever be the same

THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE

STARDUST

IN THEATERS OCTOBER 10

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CHARLIE COX SARAH MILLER RICKY GERVAIS PETER O'TOOLE

THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE

STARDUST

IN THEATERS OCTOBER 10

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SATURDAYSpecial

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 6, 2007

Paltrow on comeback trail in brother's film

LONDON—GWYNETH PALTROW is on the comeback trail after a break from acting, appearing in "The Good Night" directed by younger brother Jake.

The 34-year-old, who won a Best Actress Oscar for the 1998 film "Shakespeare in Love," admitted she was nervous about being shunned by the industry after three years away looking after her two children.

Ready to return

And, while she is ready to return to regular work, it will be at a slower pace than her pre-motherhood days. "I really stopped working for three years and I really wanted to be at home with my kids, and I still do. But, there's also part of me that is an artist," she said in an interview with her

brother to publicize "The Good Night." "But, it's hard, it's always hard to get the balance of it all right," she told Reuters.

Paltrow is also slated to appear in "Iron Man" alongside Robert Downey Jr., due in theaters next year.

Pace

"So, I'm going back to work, definitely, and I'm excited about it! But, I won't work at the pace that I used to work—I won't do three or four films a year, it'll be more like one, one-and-a-half films a year."

The actress, married to British pop star Chris Martin with whom she has two children, was concerned that her time away from the film set could hurt her career.

"I was worried that every-

body would have forgotten about me, so there was an ego thing involved as well.

"Will I actually be able to go back to work if I want to go back? Will there be parts for me? Will people care? And you know, so far they do seem to care, I'm getting some interesting jobs, it's fun to be working again!"

Dark romance

First-time director Jake Paltrow, three years Gwyneth's junior, said his sister was the last major role he cast for his dark romance, "The Good Night," so concerned was he that the project would be "eclipsed" by his famous sibling.

Spanish actress Penelope Cruz, Britain's Martin Freeman and US comedian Danny DeVito were all on board first. Reuters



PALTROW. "It's fun to be working again!"

Two and a half son, staring at the blank and other boob-tube booboos

HOST: YOUR BEST FRIEND IS very much in the news these days. Are her family problems over?

Guest: More than that, she's even happy that her two and a half son now approves of her new BF!

(Two and a half son?—Slice of life!)

Host: Was it a difficult science contest that you participated in?

Guest: Oh, the questions were really hard—at first, we contestants were just staring at the blank!

(Staring at the blank?—Blankety-blank!)

Host: What do you like most about your new boyfriend?

Guest: Unlike many others na boyfriend ng artista, hindi sya depending.

(Uh, well, it depends...)

Host: What do you have to say about all of the criticism you have been receiving?

Guest: One thing for sure, I will not allow all those accusations to be hurled at me just sitting down!

(Yeah, your accusers should at least stand up.)

Host: Can you give us a health tip for having a good complexion like yours?

Guest: Importante for health

na uminom ng walang baso ng tubig daiy.

(Walang baso? Walo seems more like it.)

Host: Your new organization is being questioned by some people who do not like the membership of your group. Who are your members?

Guest: They are all good leaders of the community—we

TWO/F3

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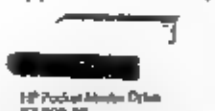
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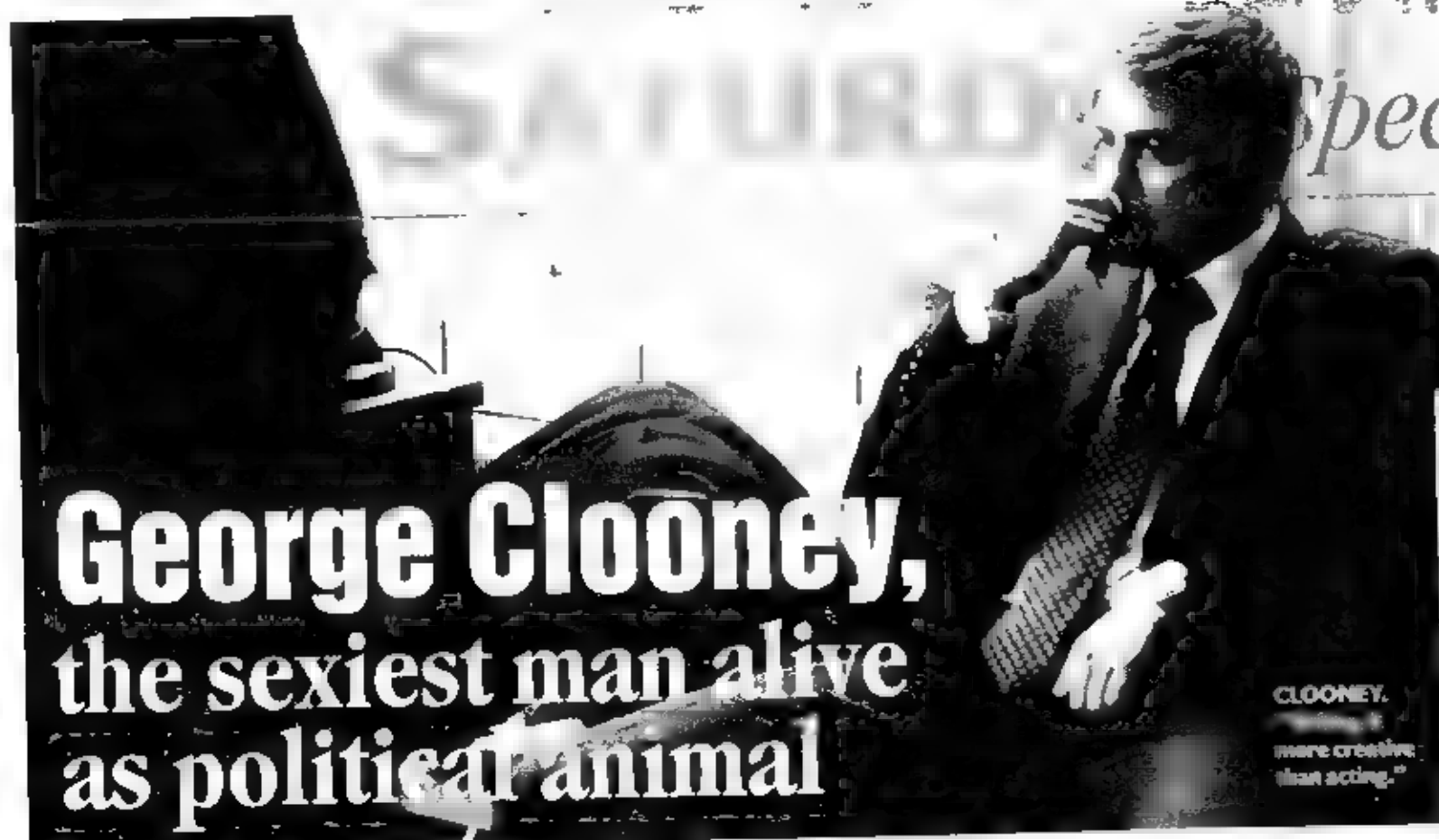
HP Pavilion a6155d Desktop PC. **Promo is from October 6 to 16, 2007 only.**

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George Clooney, the sexiest man alive as political animal

LOS ANGELES—"AM I SITTING low on this chair or am I getting smaller?" George Clooney cracked after he took his seat in a recent press con. Told that his costar Tilda Swinton had just vacated that chair and didn't seem to have a problem with it, the actor retorted, "Tilda just looks tall because she is...tall."

Wisecracks aside, the actor-writer-director is known for his good manners, so one of the first questions thrown at him was about

his thoughts on public behavior, especially of celebrities.

"I believe in the Golden Rule: Treat people how you'd want to be treated," began George, who

thriller, "Michael Clayton," with Swinton, Tom Wilkinson and Sydney Pollack. The movie is the skilful directorial debut of Tony Gilroy, who wrote all three "Bourne" films.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Revealing

George, who looks leaner and sports a salt-and-pepper beard these days, shared this anecdote, which was as startling as it was revealing: "The other day, this woman came up to me and said, 'I hated your last movie.' I was like, 'Okay, thank you.'"

"She went on and on, then she said, 'You're a lot older in person.' So, I said, 'Those extra 35 pounds look great on you.' She was like, 'What did you say?' I said, 'I was paying you a compliment.' She replied, 'You're an asshole!' I told her, 'I was standing here and you insulted me!'"

"I don't mind it because I'm in a profession that has to take something like that," explained the "ER" and "Batman" alumnus. "But, I see it happening to other people—my family and friends—the coarsening of America! I miss good manners. I spend time with activists I don't necessarily find savory. But, because of the Darfur issue, I have to work with hardcore people."

"They're very much a part of the movement, so they have to be included in the discussion. I disagree on almost every issue with them, but I have to be polite and find the good in what they're trying to do!"

Opinion

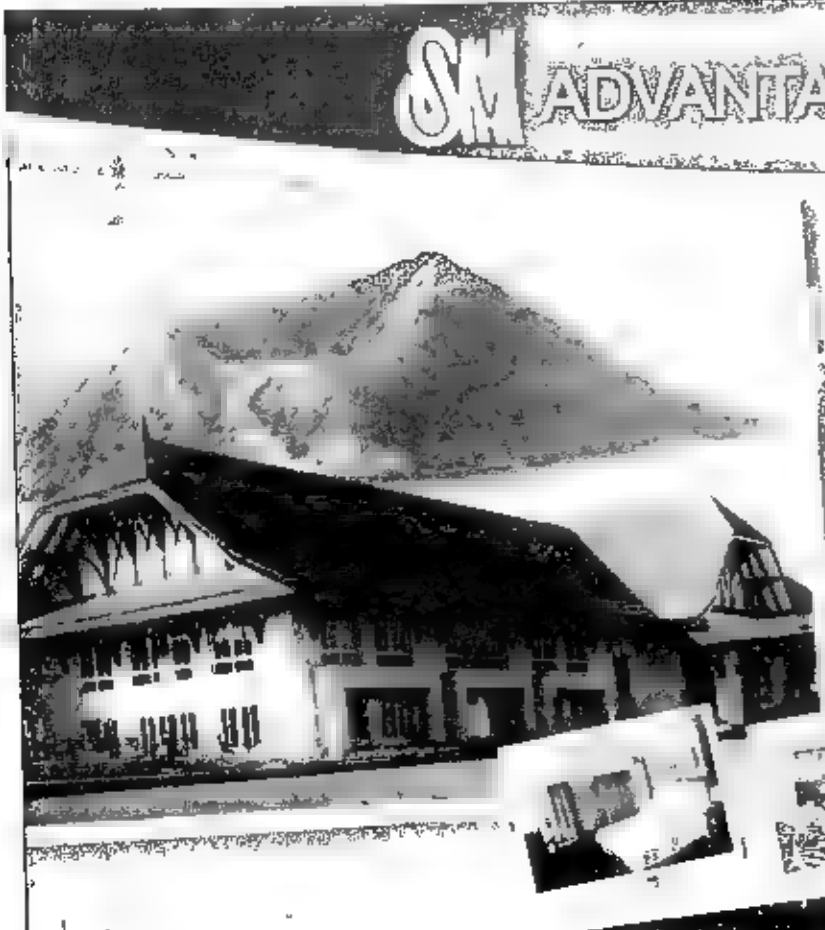
"Unkindness is spreading, though. It's like this 'American Idol' thing of wanting to make fun of people—and everybody has an opinion that must be voiced out. You want to say, 'Hey, you look old,' or 'You look short.' People didn't use to do those things. I have a tough skin—I can take it. But, people are being less kind."

In "Michael Clayton," he plays a

GEORGE/G2

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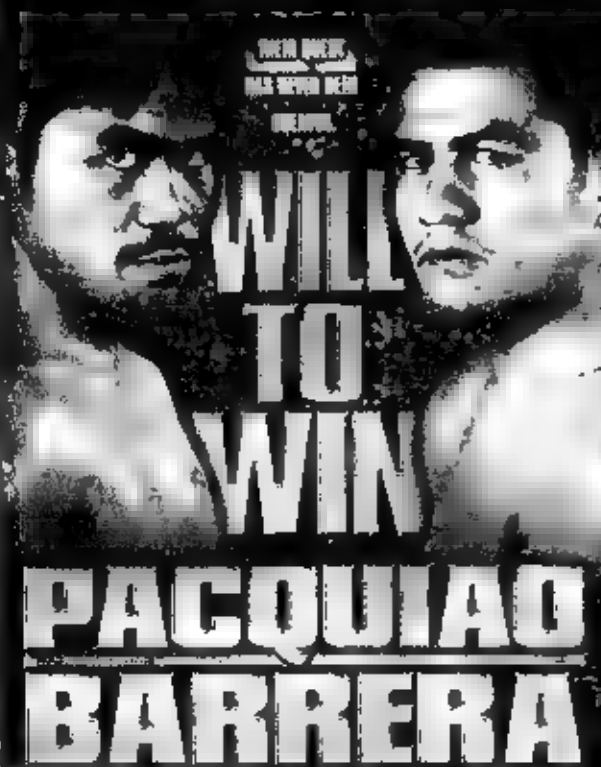
George Clooney, the sexiest man ...

From page G1


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 7. ROGUE ASSASSIN
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 2. ROGUE ASSASSIN
 3. RESIDENT EVIL
 4. NO RESERVATIONS
 5. DAYWATCH
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SM CITY ORMAO (082) 2978998

 1. RESIDENT EVIL
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 3. DAYWATCH
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 7. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
 8. 1408
 9. WEDDING DAZE
 10. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 11. SHOOT EM' UP/CARTOON NETWORK
 12. RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

 1. UNDERDOG
 2. NO RESERVATIONS
 3. A LOVE STORY
 4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
 5. THE BRAVE ONE
 6. SHOOT EM' UP
 7. RESIDENT EVIL
 8. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 9. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
 10. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME/CARTOON NETWORK
 11. WEDDING DAZE
 12. 1408

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

 1. RESIDENT EVIL
 2. NO RESERVATION
 3. WEDDING DAZE
 4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
 5. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 6. UNDERDOG
 7. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
 8. 1408
 9. SHOOT EM' UP/CARTOON NETWORK
 10. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
 11. SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

 1. RESIDENT EVIL
 2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 3. THE HOST
 4. SM CITY SANTIAGO 829-4975

 1. NO RESERVATION
 2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 3. RESIDENT EVIL
 4. ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY SANTIAGO 829-4975

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 2. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 3. RESIDENT EVIL
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 3. RESIDENT EVIL
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 3. RESIDENT EVIL
 4. ROGUE ASSASSIN
 5. WEDDING DAZE
 6. NO RESERVATION
 7. I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
 8. I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
 9. SHOOT EM' UP/CARTOON NETWORK
 10. SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

 1. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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 3. DECEMBER BOYS
 4. I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
 5. NO RESERVATION
 6. RESIDENT EVIL
 7. ROGUE ASSASSIN
 8. DISTURBIA
 9. 1408
 10. RUSH HOUR 3
 11. UNDERDOG/CARTOON NETWORK
 12. SHOOT EM' UP

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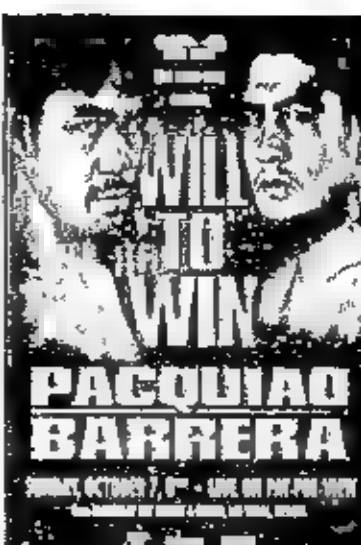
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"fixer"—someone who takes care of clients' personal mess, from hit-and-run accidents to spouses' shoplifting charges—in a big Manhattan law firm.

Is he a good fixer in real life? "My own relationships aside," the bachelor began, to much laughter, "I'm good at fixing other people's relationships."

The world knows that beneath the joking exterior and the two-time "Sexiest Man Alive" tag, George is active in humanitarian causes, especially in raising awareness for the violence in Darfur, Sudan. He has helped raise millions of dollars for the relief of its refugees.

Issues

George added "We go through periods when actors are vocal about issues, and periods when actors are made to look stupid. They probably helped perpetuate that notion by being stupid sometimes."

"Problem is, if you want to speak up about issues now, you have to know more about Darfur than Bill O'Reilly (the conservative TV personality), so that if he wants to bring on a fight, you can sit him down and say, 'Let's talk about that.' You have to be well-informed, because people will try to destroy your credibility!"

The actor also shared his thoughts about the pitfalls of Hollywood, which is known for its liberal views and for endorsing political candidates: "It's dangerous to support a candidate," he stated. "I couldn't support my father when he ran for Congress, because it was like Hollywood versus the heartland."

"You pick things that are apolitical—like Darfur. There's no right or left on that issue—only right or wrong! You have to find ways not to alienate people and give even the worst people a way out."

He clarified, "I like my country. But, we still envision ourselves passing out stockings and chocolates in World War II, and rolling into France to liberate it. But, we're starting to understand that there's another world out there, not just a country!"

Accident

The interview took place before the actor was involved in a motorcycle accident, in which he and his girlfriend, "Fear Factor" contestant and Las Vegas cocktail waitress, Sarah Larson, suffered minor injuries.

We saw him cuddling and kissing Sarah at the after-party for "Clayton" in Venice. Before this, he was linked to model Monika Jakusic.

The man has racked up a long list of girlfriends. He did get married once—to actress

GEORGE/G4



DAVAO. Topbills stage version of Lino Brocka's classic film, "Insiang."

See you at the CCP

By Nestor U. Torre

AT THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines this month, the viewing treats and activities include: Oct. 6-7, Tanghalang Pilipino's "Mulan," a new musical based on the Chinese legend about a woman masquerading as a male warrior. The new musical for children fuses martial arts and traditions with spectacle and innovative staging.

Oct. 7, 12-14, Tanghalang Pilipino's "Insiang," the stage version of Lino Brocka's acclaimed movie about a slum girl who holds onto her dreams despite the desperation of her surroundings. With Ricky Davao and Mae Paner.

Oct. 19, Late Nite Cabaret features the Ragamuffs— Paolo O'Hara, Mailes Kanapi, etc.

Choirs

Oct. 23-27, Choral Workshop and Festival. Amateur choirs will be trained by members of the Philippine Madrigal Singers.

Oct. 17-18, "A Whole Lot More at 44," the world-acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers in concert.

Until Oct. 31, "Onib Olmedo: Dimensions of Depth," a retrospective exhibit of works and memorabilia of the late, great visual artist.

On dzRH-AM radio at 2 p.m. every Saturday, "Suppin ang Korupsyon," a drama-talk show on the different facets of corruption in the Philippines.

On dzAS at 9 a.m. every Saturday, "Wan Dey Isang Araw," featuring readings of children's stories by Filipino writers.

Oct. 9 at 4 and 7 p.m., the monthly Italian Film Festival screens "Swept Away."

Do patronize these cultural events and activities. Call 832-1125 for details.

Musical

What's coming up at the CCP next year? Other interesting shows—like "Cinderella," a musical based on Rodgers and Hammerstein's material, starring Lea Salonga and directed by Bobby Garcia. The Broadway Asia Entertainment production will have 32 performances from July 22 to Aug. 26, 2008.

Looking back, September was a special month for the CCP because it marked its 35th anniversary.

In addition, it finalized its complex development plans, and

was the recipient of a P1 million donation from the Johann Strauss Society of the Philippines.

There's also been a perceptible shift in the public's impression that the CCP is for well-to-do art patrons only.

Indeed, many of the cultural center's presentations offer reduced rates for students, and a number of outreach programs and art workshops have been held all over the country, to expand the CCP's services beyond "imperial" Metro Manila—even to the poorest of the poor.

Successful

A recent activity that did a lot to "popularize" and democratize the CCP in the eyes of the general public was the successful third Cinemalaya alternative film competition and festival. Many film buffs from all walks of life patronized the digital productions of new filmmakers, and the center's many screening venues buzzed with creative energy and ferment.

We trust that, in the coming months, the CCP will present other such events specifically designed to make it much more accessible to all Filipinos.

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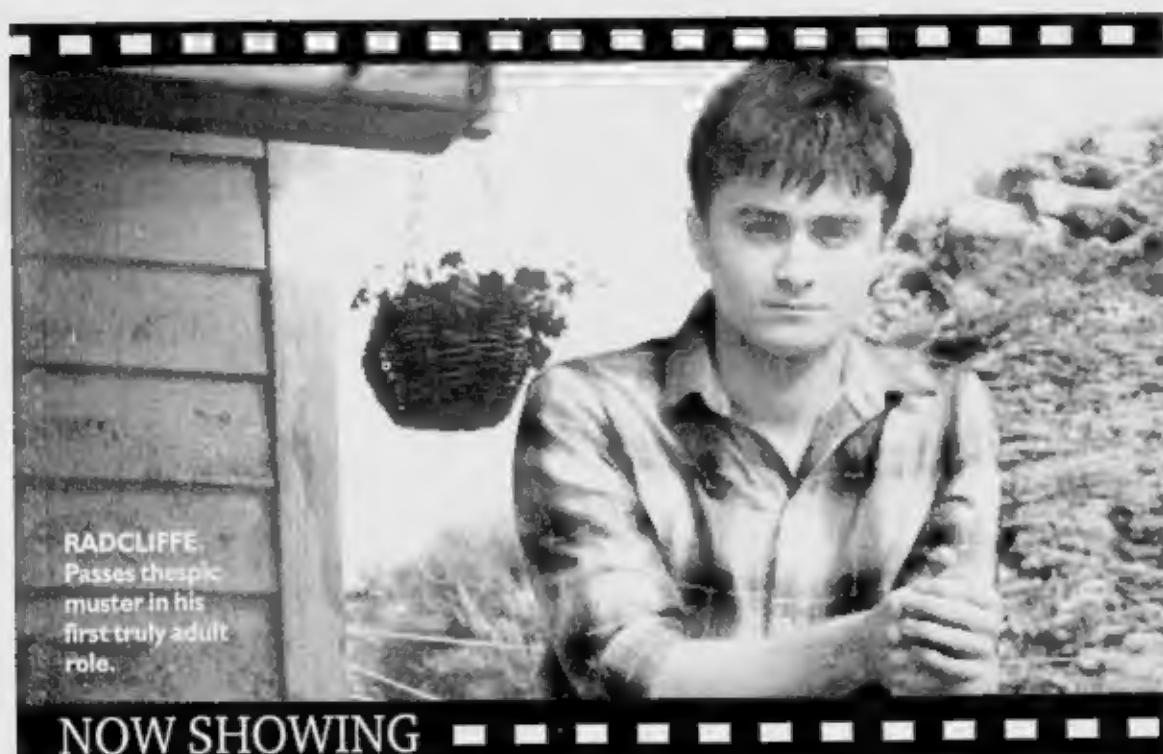
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RADCLIFFE
Passes thespic
muster in his
first truly adult
role.

NOW SHOWING

Daniel Radcliffe comes of age in treacly drama

By Rito P. Asilo

"December Boys"

D: Rod Hardy
S: Daniel Radcliffe

GROWING UP IS HARD TO DO—for wizards and humans alike. In Daniel Radcliffe's second cinematic foray outside the "Harry Potter" franchise (the first one being 2001's "The Tailor of Panama," starring Pierce Brosnan, which the teenage star shot before the J.K. Rowling series made him a household name), he plays another orphan—this time, of the muggle variety.

Set in the late '60s on the south Australian coast, Rod Hardy's meditative coming-of-age tale follows four close-knit, December-born orphans—Maps (Radcliffe), Spark (Christian Byers), Spit (James Fraser) and Misty (Lee Cornie, who acts as the narrator)—who are sent by the orphanage on a holiday by the sea.

However, ambition and competitive tension begin to tear at the boys' friendship when word gets around that Fearless and Teresa (played by Sullivan Stapleton and Victoria Hill), a young but childless couple, are thinking of adopting one of them. The conflict is understandable, because what's at stake is a new lease on life for the chosen orphan!

While the three younger boys posture for the coveted adoptive slot, Maps, the oldest of the four, has something else in mind—the flirtatious Lucy, who gets his teenage adrenaline kicking, especially after she teaches him about the birds, bees and booze! But, life is not a fairy tale, and things don't always turn out the way we want them to.

Nostalgia and melancholy set the tone of Hardy's treacly drama, which bathes in the beauty and splendor of the seaside vista at the height of Australia's December summer. The picture-perfect location

creates the perfect backdrop for the underlying tension that stirs the film's exposition. When these luckless boys make mistakes, they're innocently endearing.

Unfortunately, the film's emotional punch is diluted by a draggishly protracted middle-third, that is further cluttered by Hardy's pretentiously superfluous metaphorical devices that include side stories about the miraculous Blessed Virgin Mary, an old man and his Moby Dick-like fish, a Black Beauty-like wild stallion—and nuns doing cartwheels! Narrative excesses notwithstanding, the movie features a touchingly powerful finale.

How does Daniel Radcliffe fare? Happily, looking appropriately gawky and intense, the young actor comes of age and passes thespic muster in his first truly adult role: He is seen puffing cigarettes, sharing a kiss and a roll in the hay in a cave. Who says only boy wizards have all the fun?

Dramatic thrillers, award-winning shorts lead lineup at Aussie film fest

By Rica Arevalo

THE POURING RAIN LAST Tuesday did not dampen the mood of the crowd that attended the opening night of the Fifth Australian Film Festival at Shangri-La Plaza.

Australian actor Chris Haywood ("Shine," "Muriel's Wedding") flew in to promote the psychological thriller, "Jindabyne," in which he costars with Gabriel Byrne ("Enemy of the State") and Laura Linney ("The Truman Show"). Adapted by director Ray Lawrence from Raymond Carter's short story, "So Much Water, So Close to Home," the film is an ensemble acting piece that questions a person's morality in the face of a barbaric, murderous act.

Byrne plays a former racer who operates a car repair shop. He takes time off from work and takes three buddies on a fishing trip to the sleepy town of Jind-

abyne. While fishing, he sees the floating corpse of a female aborigine. After he calls his buddies for help, he and the gang decide not to report the incident. They continue with their fishing expedition.

Insensitivity

When Linney learns of her husband's insensitivity, the distraught wife tells him that the floating woman "needed help"—but he insists that the corpse was beyond help! Linney reaches out to the victim's family to make peace with her conscience. In no time, the incident puts the couple's marriage to the test.

The film's "fade to black" style sometimes lessens its emotional impact, but the beautiful locations and the talented cast's good performances make it a must-see.

Other films to watch out for in the festival: "Look Both Ways," a mixture of live-action and ani-

mation that explores the lives of "damaged" people; Shirley Barrett's "Love Serenade," an entry to the 1996 Cannes Film Festival; Clara Law's "Floating Life," about a family's emigration from Hong Kong, and Kate Woods' "Looking for Alibrandi," which follows three generations of an Italian-Australian family.

Evangelist

The festival's lineup also includes short films like Oscar winner, "Harvie Krumpet," narrated by Geoffrey Rush, about the strange, peculiar life of Tourette Syndrome-stricken Harvie, and "The Savior," about an evangelist in love with a married woman.

The Fifth Australian Film Festival runs until tomorrow at the Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City, and at Cebu's Ayala Center from Oct. 9 to 11. Log on to www.philippines embassy.gov.au, or call 757-8135.

Riveting performances energize Koltai's uneven dramatic feature

By Noelani Torre

"EVENING" HAS EVERYTHING any self-respecting film with Oscar aspirations could ever want: A stellar cast, picturesque cinematography, grand themes and a literary background. This tale of a woman on her deathbed ruminating on her past fairly oozes with class, elegance and a highbrow brand of sentimentality characteristic of old dramatic movies.

Based on a novel by Susan Minot, the movie is directed by Lajos Koltai and stars—as the movie's ads put it—"the Greatest Actresses of Our Time." A lot of people will no doubt find this claim disputable, but there's no denying that there are more than a few impressive names in the cast:

Dying woman

Vanessa Redgrave plays the dying woman, Ann Lord; Claire Danes is Ann in her youth; Toni Collette and Natasha Richardson (Redgrave's real-life daughter) are Ann's daughters; Mame Gummer is Lila Wittenborn, young Ann's friend; Glenn Close is Lila's mother; and Meryl Streep (real-life mother

of Gummer) is Lila in her old age. The male roles are played by Patrick Wilson (love interest Harris Arden) and Hugh Dancy (Lila's brother, Buddy).

Now, that's quite a list, indeed. You would think any movie that could harness that much acting firepower would at the very least be guaranteed not to fail—and it doesn't. There's still a big difference, however, between not failing and soaring straight into the heavens and joining the immortals. "Evening," despite everything going for it, only manages to do the former.

Of course, Hollywood is full of movies of middling quality, but Koltai's feature film is obviously not meant to be one of them. Illustrious names like Redgrave, Streep and Close are not usually associated with anything less than stellar, after all, and the production's ambitions are evident from the get-go.

The movie tells the tale of Ann Lord, a semilucid woman on her deathbed who's been remembering her past—one that's mysterious and unfamiliar to her two daughters. The story shifts back and forth, from the present to a fateful weekend

in Ann's past, which is when she meets and loses the love of her life. Meanwhile, in the present, Ann is dying and her daughters—especially the younger one played by Collette—are a bit lost.

Comparisons

People who haven't read the book, upon which this film is based, won't be able to make comparisons, but as the movie slowly unfolds, it becomes more apparent that the book might just be too subtle—the kind of material that can't really make the transition from page to screen. (Then again, it might just be the screenplay and Koltai's direction.) Whatever the case may be, the film doesn't work—because it doesn't have enough heart.

Notwithstanding the superb, finely nuanced performances of the cast, or the breathtaking shots of a dreamlike Newport, the movie fails to excite the emotions. It is engaging, yes, but only to a certain level—and only because the acting is that good (the brief scene where Streep and Redgrave share the screen was particularly riveting).

Kurosawa directs 'Retribution'

FROM KIYOSHI KUROSAWA, the director of the Japanese horror film, "Kairo (Pulse)," comes the new fright fest, "Retribution," a modern-day ghost story/serial killer

MONTAGE

mystery that blends the director's signature ingredients of guilt, suggestion and waking madness with great relish and panache.

Koji Yakusho plays a stressed-out cop investigating the murder of a young woman in a vivid red dress. The most worrying aspect of the case is that a button found at the murder scene matches one that's missing from the cop's own coat.

When fingerprints on the body match his, the cop starts thinking that he might be the murderer. His confusion peaks when he sees a ghost in the same red dress. But the film's denouement provides surprises that contradict the evidence presented thus far—and gives viewers the scare of their lives!

'Mischief Madness' at SM Mall of Asia

The Nickelodeon channel invites Nicksters to a hair-raising Halloween event at SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 31. Nick's all set to spook you from 3 to 9 p.m., giving everyone a shrieking great time.

Brave the School of Ghoul, a haunted school with everything messy, eerie and ghostly. Nick has also prepared a preview of well-loved Nicktoons, with fun and games on stage. Plus: A contest of fashionable, frightful or festive costumes, and personal appearances by Dora The Explorer, SpongeBob SquarePants and buddy Patrick Star!

For tickets, log on to www.nickspat.com/mischief-madness until Oct. 15. And from Oct. 15 to 31, purchase a minimum of P1,000 worth of goods



"RETRIBUTION"
Yakusho (right)
plays a cop
investigating the
murder of a woman
in a red dress.

from Toy Kingdom and Toy Express.

It's Waffle Time with Boy, Bianca and Mariel

Boy Abunda, Bianca Gonzales and Mariel Rodriguez share a passion for waffles, so they're happy to sing praises for Waffle Time's sweet and savory confections.

They're reasonably priced, use the best ingredients, have a variety of fillings, and are extra-yummy, thanks to a secret ingredient that's been handed down from generation to generation.

Take your pick from flavors like Ultimate Ube, Apple Cinnamon, Strawberry and Cream, Mango Magic, Peanut Butter, Tuna Salad—etc. With varied choices like these, anytime is Waffle Time! The waffle chain is located at major malls and LRT stations.

National 'Adobo' Challenge

From Nov. 9 to 11, Negros Cultural Foundation is holding the first National 'Adobo' Challenge at the historic Balay Negrenses Museum in Silay City, Negros Occidental. Amateur cooks and students will be sending in their original recipes, while professional chefs will demonstrate their expertise in transforming the traditional adobo into a lavish meal.

Other enticing activities in-

clude a street party, food and crafts fair, organic market, heritage tour and exhibits. Call (02) 750-1481, telefax (034) 433-4764, or e-mail adobochallenge@gmail.com.

MCO Arts Festival events

On Oct. 11, the lecture-concert, "A Night with Lisa Macuja," showcases the acclaimed prima ballerina and Ballet Manila. The MCO Lecture Series on Oct. 18 features Russell Brandon on J.S. Bach, with a presentation of 10 preludes. Call 878-4359 and 840-7000 loc. 12630.

Oktoberfest at Starmalls

Starmall Las Piñas showcases the True Faith band on Oct. 12, plus the beer-drinking cluster finals. The Cuba Libre branch at Las Piñas offers special discounts and promos. At Starmall Edsa, Cuba Libre, True Faith, The Dawn and Sinisikat perform all Fridays of October.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 11 p.m., "The Longest Yard" (2005). Tomorrow at 7 p.m., "Liar, Liar." Oct. 8 at 11 a.m., "Kramer vs. Kramer." Oct. 9 at 11 p.m., "The Lake House." Oct. 10 at 10:30 a.m., "Cry Freedom." Oct. 11 at 5 p.m., "Dolores Claiborne." Oct. 12 at 11 a.m., "Dick."

KUROSAWA/G3

Rachel Anne Wolfe is 'Cool'

RACHEL ANNE WOLFE, DAUGHTER OF Philippine Jazz Queen, Annie Brazil, and sister of Richard Merk, is now based in New Jersey in the US and sings in an Italian bistro in Greenwich Village. She's a doting mom to her four sons with hubby John Spitaler. But, she's back in town to promote her new album, "Cool."

The album is composed of songs she wrote based on her experiences with her kids, which explains why the lineup has hip-hop, jazz, R&B and dance elements to it.

Music video

Rachel is proud of her album. She shot its music video in New York's Times Square, Central Park and other places in the Big Apple. She had a lot of fun filming the video, which is now on YouTube. "Cool" is produced by Manna Records and distributed by Sony-BMG.

She describes "Cool" as a rebirth of her artistic passion. Indeed, she's come full circle. Catch Rachel and Richard at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3, Makati City all Thursdays this month. On Oct. 8, the pretty singer will be at the launch of radio ad specialist, Hear Hear at Merk Media; Oct. 12, she'll be at Fully Booked on Bonifacio High Street's Serendra for the launch of her album, and will perform in the show, "R&R: Richard Merk & Rachel Anne," on Oct. 16 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental. Call 892-0160 or 750-1482, or log on to www.rachelannewolfe.com.

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

We are now accepting participants for the Batanes Photo Safari on Dec. 27-30, and from January to May 2008, courtesy of the Batanes Seaside Lodge and Restaurant and Asian Spirit. Call 899-1767, email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or check out www.mandynavasero.com.

George Clooney, the sexiest man alive

From page G3

Talia Balsam, a union that lasted for four years. Nicole Kidman and Michelle Pfeiffer each reportedly bet George \$10,000 that he would be a daddy before he turned 40. He reportedly returned the actresses' checks and made a bet with them that he won't be a papa till age 50.

A reporter sneered him to less weighty issues, such as his most elusive-bachelor status. Some people believe that the late singer Rosemary Clooney's nephew is commitment-phobic—and that he'll be a bachelor for life!

Very happy

"I'm very happy with my life!" claimed the actor. "I have great friends and family. If you plan, it always ends up backfiring, so I don't plan—I just go

through life figuring what's best for me or my friends."

"Doesn't your mother want to have grandkids?" a reporter pressed on. With a smile, he answered: "My mom doesn't. She doesn't want to be called a grandmother (laughter). She's too young-looking!"

George's own grandma has seen his "real love" of six years—his villa in Lake Como, Italy. He shared: "The first year I went there, I got a passport for my grandma in Kentucky and brought her to Como. She thought it was the most beautiful place she had ever seen! I'm so taken with it!"

"I spend as much time there as I possibly can—that was where I wrote 'Good Night, and Good

GEORGE/G4



WOLFE

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Quark Henares pays it forward

By Ronald G. Mangubat

QUARK HENARES WEARS MANY HATS: HE writes, directs films, commercials and music videos, manages a band and even owns a bar and a recording studio.

But, the one thing that he enjoys doing most is teaching. "For me, it's the one pure thing—the most rewarding experience ever," he tells us with passion.

For six years now, the Ateneo communications management graduate has been teaching in his alma mater. "It's my way of paying it forward," Henares declares. "Teaching gives me such a good feeling. In the future, even if I don't do well myself, I know I've played a small part in helping my students become who they are!"

Rules

What kind of teacher is he? "I'm the type who says, 'Guys, I'll teach you the basic rules, but I want you to eventually outgrow them. Master the rules, and you can later experiment and add to the language of the cinema.'"

At 26, the son of Vicky Belo and Atom Henares has already made a name for himself as the director who megged a full-length mainstream film at age 21 via the sexy hit movie, "Gamtan," a film that Quark has not seen in years—and perhaps will not see again, because, he confides, the experience was both painful and traumatic.

"It has something to do with my Catholic guilt," he admits. "You see your teachers in Ateneo and they're all saying—hey, why did you do a bold film?" Scared by that first film experience, Henares soon got back into the groove and, in 2003, surprised everyone by writing



HENARES. Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" inspired him to be a filmmaker.

Commercial run

Critics noticed you more in "Keka"... Making "Keka" was one of the happiest moments of my life. It was what I thought film-making was all about. Yes, critics loved it. But, when the movie had its commercial run, people were torn about it. I think it hit a nerve.

Is it true that you knelt down in front of Quentin Tarantino when he visited here?

Yes! (Laughs) I said, "Mr. Tarantino, I became a filmmaker because I was inspired by 'Pulp Fiction!'"

What do your films reveal about you?

From what people say, I like scrutinizing pop culture. I also like love stories because I'm a hopeless romantic. Music is a very strong element in my productions—I don't just use it as a background.

If you had an unlimited budget, what film would you make?

A romantic comedy set in the future. There would be flying jeeps and tricycles. I'd show Malate with video screens all over the place!

Popular parents

What was it like growing up with popular parents?

I'm very lucky because, when I was growing up, they were still not popular. My mom became popular when I was in college. There's this tendency for kids of popular parents to be messed up, because you become mere shadows of them.

When I was starting, I was always introduced as the son of Vicky Belo, and people would ask me, 'Ba't 'di ka pa nagpapa-lipo?' (Laughs)

and directing his second movie, "Keka."

Today, he's wrapping up production work on his next film, "Rokenrol," and is excited at the prospect of surprising the public once again. Excerpts from our interview:

How did you get into films?

Back in grade school in Montessori, I was already a film fan. I've always wanted to become a storyteller, but it took me awhile to find the right medium—until I saw "Pulp Fiction," which became the triggering point.

After college, I went to New York to study filmmaking; when I got back, I directed music videos for Viva, and that led to the offer to direct "Gamtan."

Kurosawa directs 'Retribution'

From page G4

On Cinemax today at 11 a.m., "Alfie." Tomorrow at 1 p.m., "A Sound of Thunder." Oct. 8 at 5 p.m., "King Solomon's Mines." Oct. 9 at 1 p.m., "The Last Boy Scout." Oct. 10 at 1 p.m., "G.I. Blues." Oct. 11 at 3 p.m., "Street Crimes." Oct. 12 at 3 p.m., "The Interpreter."

At Alchemy

From 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. tonight, DJ Manolo Santos plays a fusion of tribal and electro house music. Call 0917 860-2457, or visit www.alchemy.ph.

Lorli for Gilbert Perez

Lorli Villanueva is paying musical tribute to veteran editor/columnist Gilbert

Perez at Merk's Bar Bistro from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 10. Lorli's "Show for A Friend" is also a reunion of Gilbert's close friends. Special guests are Frederick Peralta and Christan. There will also be an auction of paintings by Botong Francisco and Jose Joya from Gilbert's collection. Call 0928 257-7871, or e-mail friendsforgilbert@yahoo.com

Cyd Charisse danced up a sultry storm

By Behn Corvantes



CHARISSE. Spectacularly statuesque.

CYD CHARISSE, THE DARK-haired, statuesque beauty who costarred with Hollywood's greatest dancing stars, Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire, will always be remembered with cinematic reverence. In her colorful career, she was always the female focus in outstanding dance sequences.

Not only was she skilled, she was respected and admired by her partners. It's no wonder that she enjoyed a long and notable career during Hollywood's Golden Age.

Ballet Russe

Cyd was an Ava Gardner look-alike, so the classically-trained dancer was awesome to look at on the big screen. Before hitting Hollywood, she danced with the famed Ballet Russe.

Because she was spectacularly statuesque, talent scouts brought the young beauty to MGM executives, who quickly signed her to a long-term contract.

Since grand musicals were MGM's specialties, Cyd danced in spectacular ballet scenes with equally-talented ballet dancers like Jacques D'Amboise, or with Hollywood's top leading

Collaborations

Who can forget the dance sequence she did with Kelly in Stanley Donen's "Singin' in the Rain"? Or, any of her collaborations with Astaire, no matter if their styles were disparate.

Despite Charisse's unmistakable appeal, she was really a mild-mannered pro-

fessional who was well-loved by her coworkers.

So, it was unfortunate that she had to be replaced by Leslie Caron in "An American in Paris," because she was then expecting her child with singer Tony Martin. The role could have been Cyd's greatest! Her loss was Caron's entry to international fame.

Remake

Actually, Cyd was rather limited as an actress, although her seemingly aloof demeanor worked in her favor in the remake of "Ninotchka," one of Greta Garbo's greatest thespic successes.

Charisse enjoyed a long Hollywood career. I first saw her in the late '50s when she accompanied her husband, Tony Martin, for his show here.

So, when I was in New York in 1991, when Broadway staged a musical version of "Grand Hotel," I rushed to see the show!

It didn't matter that she only did a few turns—she was past 70 at the time. Her appearance was worth the price of admission!

AT THE CINEMAS

*Refrain your tickets by texting SURFSEATS 883 to 2333 (Globe) or 271 (Smart) or log on to www.surfseats.com for web reservations.
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GREENBELT 3	1 HARSH TIMES	2 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	3 DECEMBER BOYS	4 NO RESERVATIONS
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 DAYWATCH	3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	4 SINKING OF JAPAN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 WEDDING DAZE
TRINOMA	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 EVENING	3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	4 DECEMBER BOYS
	5 NO RESERVATIONS	6 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION	7 WEDDING DAZE	

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Ayala

glorietta	BPI Appliance Madness September 26 to October 16 at Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Viva Mexico: A Traditional Mexican Costume Exhibit October 2 to 15; Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Fitness At The Town September 3 to December 14, 2007; Mon./Wed./Fri. - 6 PM; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BPI Automadness Exhibit October 11 to 14; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Stargazing: "Apat Dapat Dapat Apat" Mail Tour October 5; 6 PM; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Rhythm Academy: Nina with the Kilyawan Boys October 6; 7 PM; TriNoma Park

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October 20: The Company with The Las Piñas Boys Choir

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